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THE TIMES



35p

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THURSDAY JUNE 26 1997

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2-SECTION APPOINTMENTS

Last chance to talk, Sinn Fein told

Blair issues ultimatum on IRA ceasefire

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Watt

TONY BLAIR yesterday delivered an ultimatum to the IRA by announcing plans to start detailed talks on Northern Ireland's future in September — with or without Sinn Fein at the table.

The Prime Minister, desperate to revive the peace process, said he wanted the discussions over by May 1998, with any agreement being put to the people of Northern Ireland soon after in a referendum.

By announcing a tight and ambitious deadline Mr Blair was effectively telling the IRA it must declare a ceasefire by the end of next month to have any chance of boarding the "peace train".

The Government has already told Sinn Fein — in a document made public yesterday — that it would make a judgment about whether they qualified for peace talks six weeks after a ceasefire had been declared.

But fears that hardline IRA terrorists are trying to wreck Mr Blair's initiative increased as police yesterday foiled an early-morning attack on the RUC.

They recovered two fully-loaded AK-47 assault rifles after armed terrorists took over a house in South Belfast. Security sources said that the IRA was planning to launch an attack on the heavily fortified RUC station at Woodburn.

Bill Stewart, the RUC's Assistant Chief Constable for Belfast, accused the terrorists of "murderous intent". The planned attack also raised speculation about a splinter group trying to stop the peace process.

Hours later in the Commons the Prime Minister declared: "The settlement train is leaving, with or without Sinn Fein. If they want to join, it is absolutely clear what they have to do. I have dealt straight with them. I expect straight dealing in return. We and the other parties will not be waiting around for them."

He said that after the murders of two RUC officers in Lurgan last week "the credibility gap the IRA and Sinn Fein have to bridge is wider than ever."

"Whatever Sinn Fein now say or do, I am determined to move on. It is essential to make political progress rapidly," he said.

Mr Blair, as expected, outlined the new approach on decommissioning agreed with Dublin under which the IRA would give up arms during the negotiations.

Under the plan, which does not require the IRA to disarm before the talks, an independent commission would be set up to make proposals for dismantling and monitor its implementation. A special committee within the talks process would be set up to consider the progress.

Mr Blair also published the note in which Sinn Fein were offered the prospect of a place in the talks six weeks after a ceasefire. It had been intended to put at rest fears that the Government might deliberately spin out the process.

But three days after it was sent the Lurgan killings, which Mr Blair believes were an attempt to sabotage the process, occurred.

meetings between Sinn Fein and government officials on May 21 and May 28 Mr Blair intended to show that the Government has been seriously trying to make progress.

Addressing the issue of how long a ceasefire would have to run before Sinn Fein could join the talks, the note says: "We understand that an open-ended time period gives rise to accusations of bad faith. We are prepared therefore to remove any misunderstanding by saying the period of time for such a judgment is some six weeks."

"If an unequivocal ceasefire is in place by mid-June, and is satisfactory in word and deed, Sinn Fein would be invited to a plenary session of the negotiations by the end of July."

Yesterday's moves were intended to put fresh pressure on the IRA and Sinn Fein and to capitalise on the wave of disillusion in Britain, Ireland and the United States over the Lurgan killings.

William Hague, the Conservative Leader, pledged the continuation of the bipartisan approach to Northern Ireland. But he said there should be no question of substantive negotiations with Sinn Fein without "early" parallel decommissioning of arms.

Cl A man was charged last night with the murders of two RUC officers in Lurgan, Co Armagh, on June 16. Colin Duffy, 29, appeared at Craigavon Magistrates Court, Co Armagh. Duffy was remanded in custody pending a further hearing next month.

Charles Lynght, page 22
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Hague's fiancée
quits Civil Service

Ffion Jenkins, fiancée of William Hague, has resigned from the Civil Service days before she was expected to return from leave to work for a Labour Cabinet minister.

Miss Jenkins decided that her future husband's high profile political role was not compatible with a career in Whitehall. Page 2

Sir Cameron's
millennium role

The theatre impresario Sir Cameron Mackintosh has been drafted in to save the troubled millennium exhibition. The creator of West End hit shows will produce a musical as the centrepiece of the Greenwich Dome project. Page 7

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Cousteau, explorer of oceans, dies

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

JACQUES COUSTEAU, the veteran French underwater explorer whose films and books vividly revealed the mysteries of marine life to millions of people around the world, died yesterday, aged 67.

Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau has gone to the world of silence. The Cousteau Foundation announced in a reference to the celebrated oceanographer's Oscar-winning 1955 documentary, *The Silent World*.

Mourning M Cousteau's death, President Chirac described him as "the world's most famous Frenchman" and "an enchanter in the tradition of ocean explorers whose life seems so much like a legend".

Lionel Jospin, France's Prime Minister, added: "The planet has lost one of its

greatest defenders." A memorial service is to be held in Notre Dame on Monday.

In the course of a 60-year odyssey across and beneath the waters of the world, M Cousteau jointly invented the aqualung, pioneered a jet-propelled submarine, and conducted the first offshore oil exploration. Most of his voyages, from Antarctica to the Amazon and the Red Sea, were aboard the *Calypso*, a British minesweeper that he converted into a floating laboratory.

He once remarked that "in life there are two vices — water and money. You have to use both."

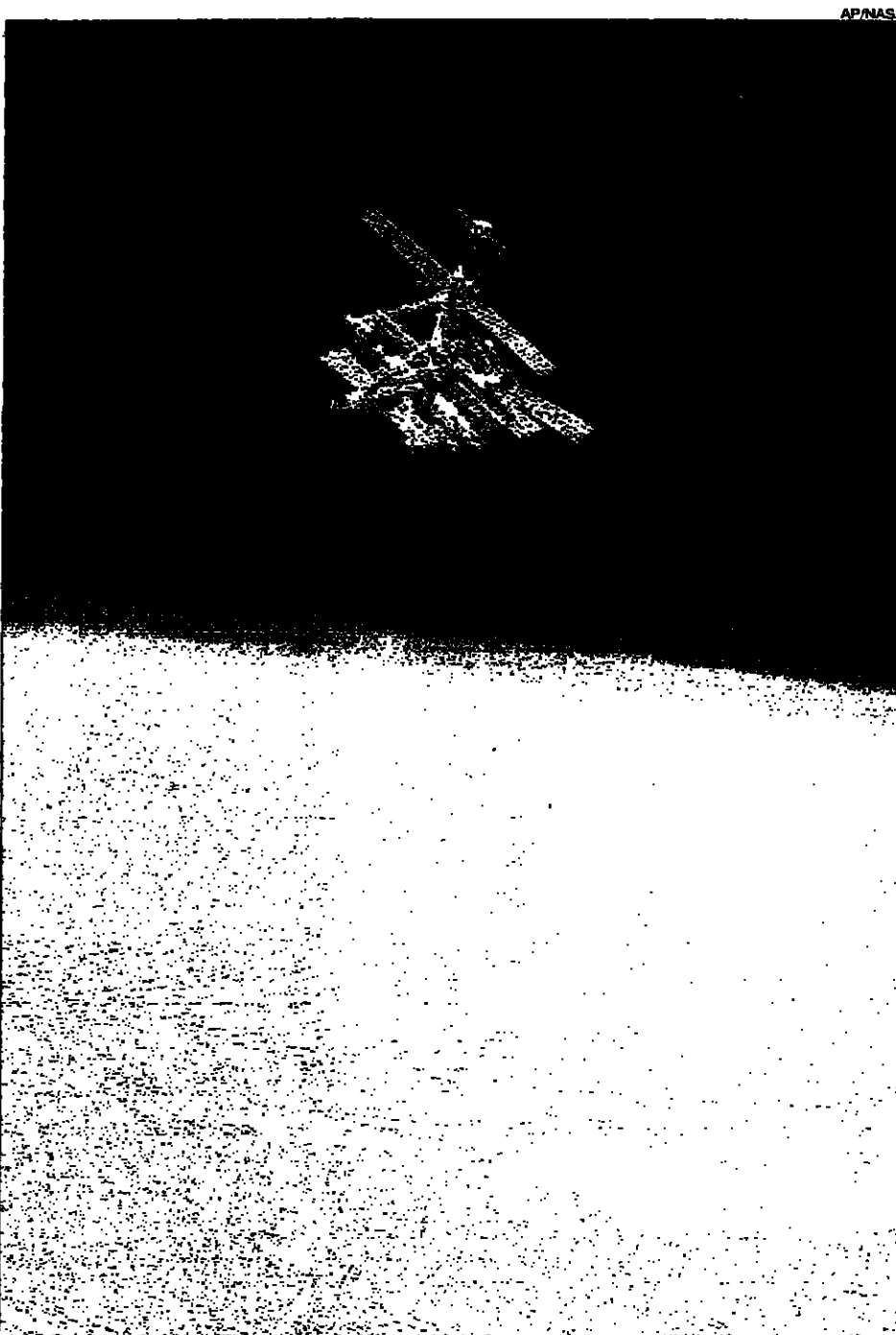
Francine Cousteau, the explorer's widow, said that he had died of cardiac arrest at their Paris home as a result of complications from a lung infection. "He remained conscious and lucid until the last day," she said. M Cousteau was already ill when he celebrated his eighty-seventh birthday two weeks ago.

The United Nations Earth Summit yesterday paid tribute to a "giant". The summit's presiding officer, Razali Ismail, President of the General Assembly, announcing M Cousteau's death, said he was "a giant of a man in promoting development and environmental issues".

Obituary, page 25



Cousteau: "a giant in promoting green issues"



The Russian space station Mir, ageing and a subject of increasing safety concerns

Space collision puts cosmonauts at risk

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A COLLISION in space yesterday punched a hole in the Mir space station, putting at risk the lives of the three cosmonauts aboard.

The unit was quickly sealed off, and Russian mission control said that the cosmonauts, who include British-born Michael Foale, were safe. But the incident is bound to increase anxiety about the safety of the ageing space station.

The accident occurred yesterday morning as the crew were practising docking with a Progress supply ship. The cargo ship had been detached on Tuesday, to allow it to re-enter the atmosphere and burn up over the Pacific. But before that it was decided to practise the docking manoeuvre, which has often proved tricky for cosmonauts on Mir.

Instead of docking, however, the Progress craft collided with Spektr, one of six modules attached to Mir, which is used for scientific experiments and Earth observation. The



A television picture of the damaged panel

impact damaged Spektr's solar panels and was sufficiently violent to cause a leak. Oxygen rapidly drained away and the crew hurriedly sealed off Spektr from the rest of Mir.

The job took several minutes and pressure inside Mir began to fall. "We have managed to stabilise the situation," said Viktor Blagov, a deputy director of the Russian Mission Control Centre near Moscow.

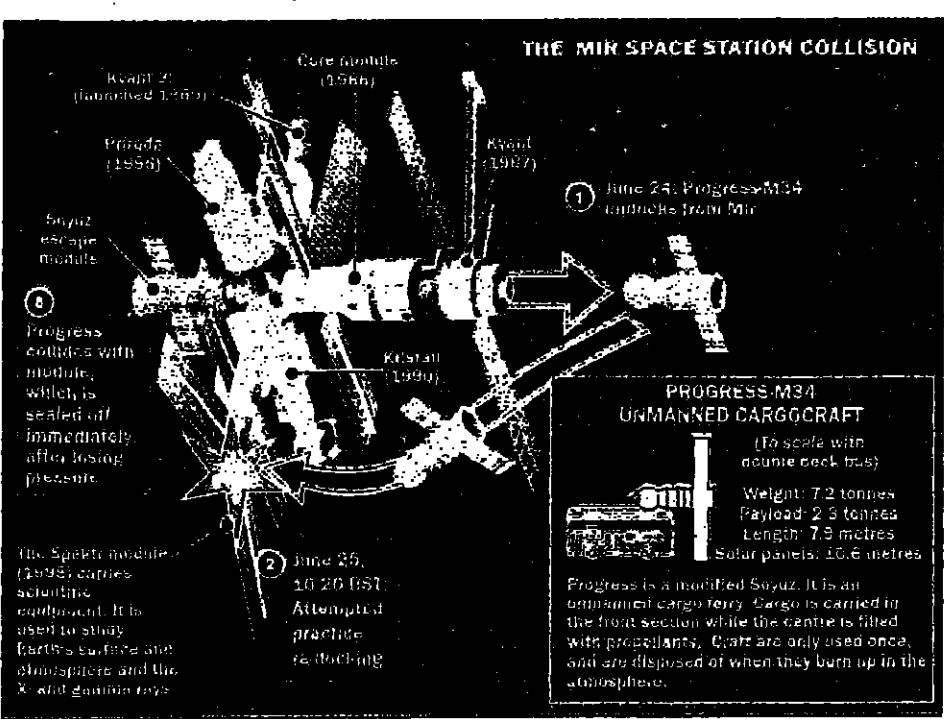
There is no talk about evacuating the crew or jettisoning the module.

He said the atmospheric pressure aboard Mir dropped slightly but was eventually brought back to normal. The pressure in the damaged module was "heading toward zero", according to Rob Navias, spokesman of the US space agency Nasa, which is engaged in a joint programme with the Russians.

Mr Blagov said that Mir also lost about one-third of its power supply as a result of the collision, and officials were considering how to use the remaining energy more effectively. He said this would not endanger the crew but would impose limits on scientific experiments.

"The multi-module structure of Mir saved it," Mr Blagov said. "It worked like a ship, which can keep afloat if one compartment is damaged." He said that officials had not been able to determine

Continued on page 3, col 1



Civil liberties row over plan to issue pupil ID numbers

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

EVERY child will be given a national identification number at the age of four, under Government plans announced yesterday to plot pupils' progress throughout their school career.

New central records will enable officials to track pupils from school to school to measure their progress — or "value added" — at each stage. But the plan sparked an immediate row with civil liberties campaigners, who said the system could open the door to national identity cards, which Labour opposed in opposition.

From next year, as well as giving examination results at 16 and 18, official national league tables will take account of pupils' success rates in earlier tests at seven, 11 and 14. This is to ensure the achievement of middle-ranking schools which make great strides with below-average children is recognised and to expose those which coast with bright intakes.

The introduction of pupil identification numbers will ensure that the correct results are used to assess the performance of schools even when some children have moved from elsewhere.

David Hawker, who is developing the "value added" tables for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, said: "We are looking at setting up a national pupil number. It is nothing to be frightened of because pupil information is covered by the Data Protection Act. Local education authorities already have their own numbering systems."

But Andrew Puddephat, director of the civil rights pressure group Charter 88, said: "Once you have a unique identification number to keep

truck of pupils, you really have the basis for a identity card system."

"It is a cliché to talk about a slippery slope, but who knows how it could be used? The Government must explicitly rule out any extension of its use for other purposes."

John Wadham, the director of Liberty, said: "There must be other systems that can cope with the administrative problems without the downside of serious civil liberties implications."

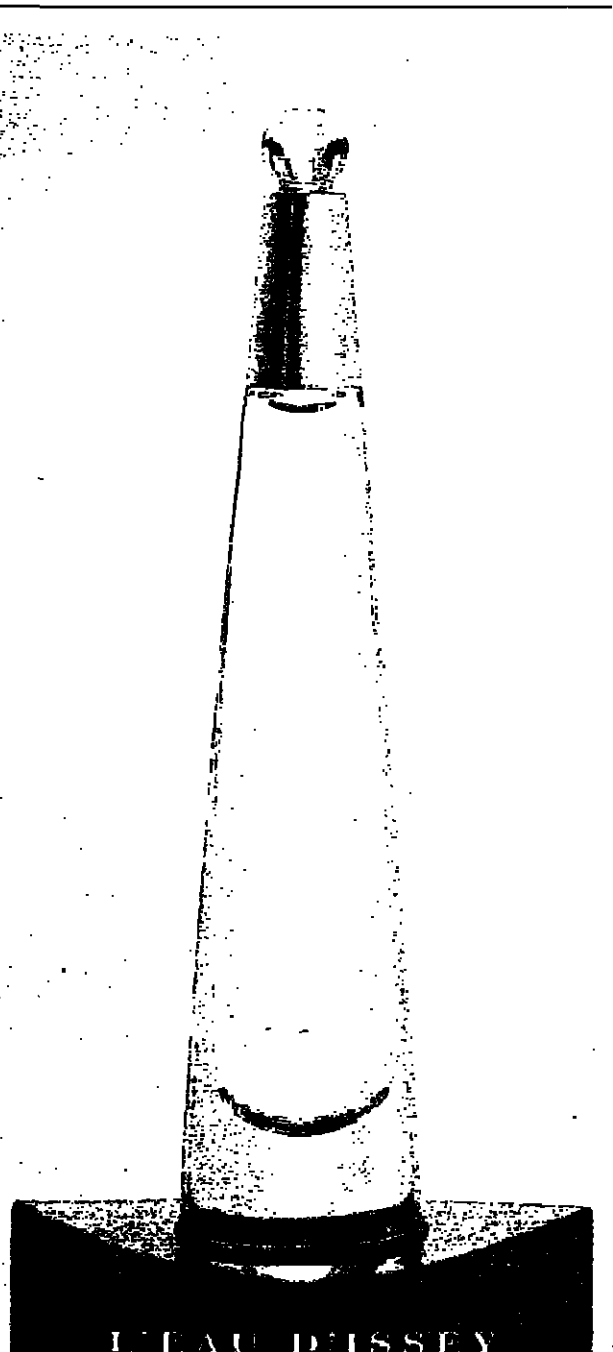
Estelle Morris, the schools standards Minister, said the new measures would give a clearer indication of which schools were improving. This year's tables will also include four previous years' results.

But teaching unions remained hostile. Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said publication of league tables should be suspended pending consultation on a better method of monitoring and reporting on school effectiveness. He said: "League tables based on crude results are not a reliable indication of school performance, no matter how they are modified by so-called value added indicators."

Ms Morris also confirmed that the Government would require local authorities to produce their own primary school league tables, although the Department for Education and Employment would publish the results subsequently on the Internet.

The switch to local publication is designed to speed up the process so that the results are available before parents have to choose schools.

National publication will continue for tables of public examination results.



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New brew lacks froth on top, but delivers a kick

WILLIAM HAGUE leapt like a tiger at his first chance to intervene at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday. As a novice bungee jumper pushes to the front, to get it over with, Mr Hague's anxious lunge at the dispatch box suggested not so much an impatience for the fun as an ache to have done with it.

Yards to his left and impassive as an elderly basking seal, Sir Edward Heath watched the fourteenth tackle a Prime Minister since, as a young MP, he watched Winston Churchill tackle Clement Attlee half a century ago. John

Major watched from the back benches. This was William Hague's debut. The political world was watching. No doubt his mother was watching. Maybe his girlfriend was watching. From the crowded peers' gallery in the Commons, half the House of Lords seemed to be watching. Some of his friends were watching. All his enemies were watching.

He made a good start. At first very nervous and fiddling, with notes covered in inky scrawl, he was on the edge of his seat before the Tony Blair had even risen for his first question. This came



MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

in the Brummie accents of Dennis Turner (Labour, Wolverhampton South East). The Prime Minister was ready for a dozen great issues of our time. What would Mr Turner ask? Hague was agog.

"I wonder whether my Right Hon Friend has had time to study my Weights & Measures (Beer & Cider) Bill? A full pint with the froth on top?" urged Turner. It was a pity Hague could not keep

still and was already straining for the dispatch box. To shrieks of "No froth on top! Ha, ha, ha!", Labour fingers pointed at his head, but the PM steered clear of baldist controversy and spoke of his commitment to a full pint.

Too wound up to notice the joke, Hague shot to his feet. His voice was uncertain. Betty Boothroyd had to silence Labour backbenchers, still cackling "No froth on top".

But when he was heard, it was Blair's turn to tense up. Five times the new Tory leader put it to him that one of his Welsh backbenchers was complaining he had been threatened by the Welsh Secretary with expulsion from the party, unless he toed the line on devolution. And Hague alleged that local councillors had tried to intimidate their MP.

Blair flatly denied both charges. The Welsh Secretary (he said) had assured him that the first was untrue and Blair had ordered an investigation into the second, which showed that to be a fiction too. Allegation and denial shot

back and forth like a Wembley don't rally. Hague's supporters roared him on; Blair's roared their man on. You could take your choice which to believe, but Mr Blair's irritable, dismissive laugh, and a sprinkling of worried faces among the multicoloured matchstick men and women behind him, suggested that the accusation hurt.

Hague's delivery sometimes faltered (he needs, in trouser Boothroyd's phrase, to "produce"), but his argument did not. The PM sat down less than wounded, but mightily stung. Paddy Ashdown spoiled his day a little

more by siding with the Labour Left against their leader. The Liberal Democrat leader is insisting that more be spent on health and education, and will not let the matter drop.

The more critics refuse to let a subject drop, the more Tony Blair goes ragged. For the first time in this Parliament, it was possible to believe that with an energetic Tory leader attacking from the Right and a dogged Liberal Democrat attacking from the Left, the Opposition parties might combine to rattle the Prime Minister's so far magnificent self-assurance.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Strang is to review bus services

The Government is to review bus services in an attempt to make them more efficient, reliable and frequent.

The review was announced yesterday by Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, who said that the aim was to increase the number of people using buses. "The basic problem is that in many areas we don't have a reliable bus service so that you can go to the shop and know that the bus will be there in a few minutes. All sections of the bus industry will be consulted and the review will form part of the proposed White Paper on integrated transport policy to be published next spring."

Fast sackings

A fast-track plan to sack bad teachers has been agreed by employers. If accepted by ministers, a new charge of gross incompetence will lead to dismissal within two terms. The present system has seven stages and takes three years or longer. The Local Government Association said it wanted a "fair but fast" means of dismissing incompetent teachers.

Never say dye

The washday nightmare of whites turned sickly pink or sky blue could be banished by a new enzyme developed by the Danish biotechnology company Novo-Nordisk. Added to a detergent, the enzyme bleaches out dyes, but only when they have bled accidentally in the wash. It has no effect on the original coloured fabrics, the developers claim.

Breath of hope

One of the Siamese twin girls separated by surgeons at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital a week ago is now breathing unaided. The girls, who were joined at the abdomen, were delivered by Caesarean section on April 7. The second twin remains on a ventilator. A hospital spokesman said: "Both are stable and making good progress."

Bombings case

Two men accused of taking part in terrorist bombings in France lost their High Court attempt to avoid extradition on the ground that they would not receive a fair trial in "racist" France. The court refused applications from Rachid Ramda, an Algerian, and Mustapha Boutarfa, who has dual French and Algerian nationality, for writs of habeas corpus.

Balloonist pays

A woman who lost her enthusiasm for sex after being thrown from a horse when it was frightened by a hot-air balloon was awarded £18,657 damages at Norwich Crown Court. Christine Stiven, 32, from Norwich, had sued the balloonist, Gary Andrewartha, 32, of Goodenough, Norfolk, for injuries she received in April 1994.

Duke rests

The Duke of Westminster has accepted medical advice not to resume work or public engagements until September. Britain's richest landlord, said to be worth nearly £1.7 billion, has been resting since early this month. His personal secretary said at the time that the 46-year-old duke had been working too hard and had been ordered to rest by his doctor.

Hague's fiancée quits her job at the Welsh Office

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

FFION JENKINS, fiancée of William Hague, has resigned from the Civil Service days before she was expected to return from leave to serve a Labour Cabinet minister.

Miss Jenkins, who was Mr Hague's private secretary when he was Welsh Secretary in the last Government, decided that her future husband's high-profile political role was not compatible with a career in Whitehall. She has not been back to her desk since Labour won the election.

The decision to give up her Civil Service career will fuel speculation that the couple are planning to get married sooner rather than later. However, friends of the couple maintain that the Oxford educated high-flyer will put her own career first.

Romance blossomed when Miss Jenkins, 29, taught Mr Hague the words of the Welsh national anthem sitting on a wall of a village pub overlooking the mountains. She sang the anthem for two hours. Their surprise engagement was announced in March

A Tory MP who has been denied frontbench office for 27 years was the latest appointment yesterday in William Hague's front bench team. Sir David Mabel (Bedfordshire South West), one of the last of the old-style, pro-European Wets, was made an opposition whip. James Cran (Beverley) is also made a whip, as are Oliver Heald (Hertfordshire North East) and Nigel Waterson (Eastbourne).

after a six-month courtship.

Miss Jenkins went on a three-month sabbatical in March. When it came to an end she took unpaid leave of absence to consider her future. But now she has submitted her notice in writing. A spokesman for the Welsh Office confirmed: "She has formally tendered her resignation. Recently."

Her £28,000-a-year role would have brought her into regular contact with Ron Da-

vies, the new Welsh Secretary, and other political appointees. Miss Jenkins, known as "Jolly" to her friends, may seek a new challenge in the private sector or academia.

A copy of her curriculum vitae has been sent to a firm of headhunters makes impressive reading. She has four A levels, three at grade A, read English at Oxford and did a Master of Philosophy which included a thesis written entirely in Welsh on the English poet Thomas Gray. She also plays the harp and the clarinet.

Her connections are impeccable, as befits the new first lady of Tory politics. Dr Manon Williams, her older sister, is a key member of the private office of the Prince of Wales. Her father, Emyr, is chief executive of the Arts Council of Wales.

Miss Jenkins, who has been photographed stepping out with Mr Hague more frequently recently, is expected to devote the next few weeks to working on a thesis for a doctorate in medieval studies.



William Hague and Ffion Jenkins: she has quit Civil Service, where she would have worked for a Labour minister

Image makers divided by Kojak look with a Yorkshire accent

By Andrew Pierce and Mark Henderson

THE image consultant who transformed the appearance of Margaret Thatcher predicted yesterday that William Hague would be one of the most telegenic politicians in decades, following his first Prime Minister's Question Time.

Sir Gordon Reece, who was credited with changing Baroness Thatcher's hairstyle, wardrobe, and lowering the pitch of her voice, said: "I would not alter the way he looks or sounds very much at all. He has always had distinctive Yorkshire vowels. I think that they are rather appealing. The voice is like a musical instrument. You have to learn how to use it."

"I think William has done his homework. He has been speaking in public since he was 16. As for being bald, I do not think it will matter a bit. It might even add an air of authority which belies his youthful looks."

However, Mary Spillane, the image consultant who

changed the beard and sandals image of many Liberal Democrats MPs, said: "Hague needs to do something about that giant dome when he stands at the dispatch box. It catches the light, and coupled with his slightly monotonous delivery, it can make him look and sound tedious."

"He should certainly be using a powder on it to stop the glare, and perhaps he should consider using a heavy foundation cream to block it. He's very fair skinned, which makes matters worse."

She said he was right in not trying to conceal his baldness. "He has chosen a flattering hairstyle that shows he is receding but makes the best of it," she said.

Sir Ronald Millar, who was a speechwriter for Sir Edward Heath, Baroness Thatcher and John Major, gave Mr Hague seven marks out of 10 for his first performance: "He is still behind Margaret. She started off on 8's. When she first went to the dispatch box, I thought she looked like she came



Sir Gordon: he was Thatcher adviser

straight out of the film The Sound of Music. William looks more like he came out of a Kojak episode. He is like the star of a smart detective series. His voice is strong."

"I think his double-breasted suits are clever because they convey an impression of weight even though he is only a slip of a lad."

Most observers thought that Mr Hague had shown signs of

nerves when he rose to deliver his first question. "But I like that," said Sir Ronald. "It would have been a mistake to have been cocky and to appear to be the king of the castle."

Robert Freeburn, director of the Voice and Speech Centre in London, said Mr Hague's delivery was predictable, flat and lacking in impact. He said that despite a resonant voice which showed good speaking technique, he was not yet a match for the Prime Minister.

"His voice is very flat, with very few highlights," Mr Freeburn said. "He does not even mark his voice with a rising inflection on a question, which is wrong. I would hesitate to say he was monotonous, but he certainly lacks a dynamic quality."

Mr Hague put in four hours' preparation for Question Time, coached by close advisers including Alan Duncan, his Parliamentary Political Secretary. Tony Blair went into the Commons chamber late at night and went through the motions at the dispatch box for his debut. Mr Hague rejected that idea.

New leader must make his face fit

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

A PROBLEM faces William Hague: the vast majority of the public does not know what to make of him. He has risen so far so fast that he has not yet established a clear image — either with the public as a whole or with the reduced band of committed Tory supporters.

The latest MORI poll for The Times, the first since the general election, underlines the extent of the task facing Mr Hague. The poll, full details of which will appear tomorrow, was undertaken last weekend just after all the publicity about Mr Hague's election as leader. Nevertheless, only a quarter of the public has a firm view about Mr Hague and they are split evenly in being satisfied or dissatisfied with the way he is doing his job as Tory leader. Nearly 75 per cent say they don't know. While 23 per cent

of Tory supporters say they are satisfied with his performance, 72 per cent don't know. These figures are hardly surprising. The public is suspending its verdict. What is striking, however, is the contrast between Mr Hague's rating now and those of other Opposition leaders just after they were elected. The public had much firmer opinions about the last four Labour leaders, largely because they had already been much better known. The level of don't knows for the four ranged between 50 and 58 per cent, substantially less than for Mr Hague. Their satisfaction ratings, varied between 23 per cent for Michael Foot at the end of 1980 and 34 per cent for Tony Blair in summer 1994.

MORI also probed more closely peoples' attitudes towards Mr Hague. A tenth of the public, but 28 per cent of Tory supporters, say they like both him and his policies. At the opposite end of the spectrum, 16 per cent of the public, and 6 per cent of Tory supporters, dislike both him and his policies. In the middle, some 8 per cent (4 per cent of Tories) like him but dislike his policies, while 4 per cent (5 per cent of Tories) dislike him but like his policies. Most significantly, all 62 per cent of the public, as a whole, and 56 per cent of Tory supporters, have no opinion.

Mr Hague, of course, has time on his side — probably more than he would like. His immediate need is to establish his personality with the electorate. He made a solid start

at Prime Minister's Questions, sharp and to the point, if perhaps on a second-order question that did not quite bear the number of supplementaries he asked.

What he now needs to do is not to launch a series of policy initiatives but to give the public an impression of his underlying approach to politics, just as Mr Blair did with his dramatic initiative to rewrite Clause Four. The short-term risk, underlined by his generally lightweight and unimpressive frontbench team, is that the Tories will be ignored and pushed in the edge of the political stage.

MORI interviewed 1,852 adults at 173 sampling points across Britain on June 20-21. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population.

PETER RIDDELL

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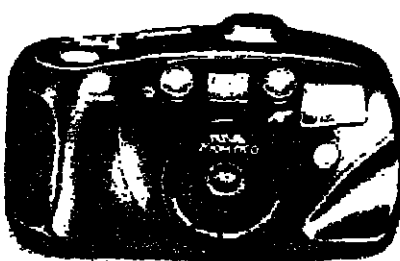
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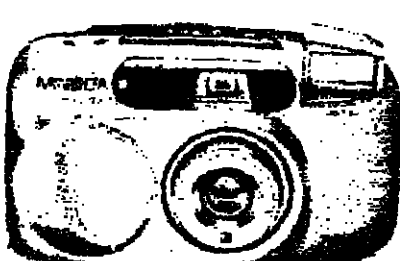
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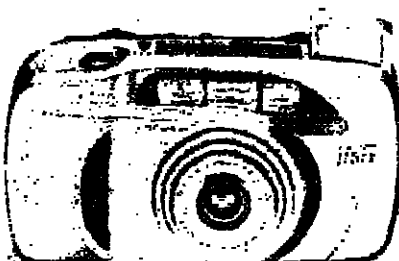
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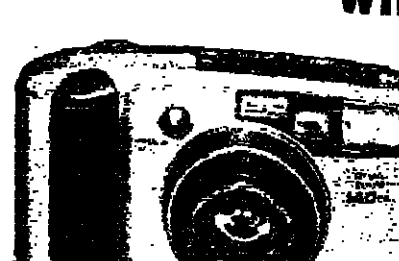
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Nasa urged to heed Mir safety warnings

Fears for future of American shuttle missions

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

THE head of Nasa was urged yesterday to send no more astronauts for a long-term stay on Mir until he is satisfied the Russian space station meets or exceeds American safety standards.

The warning was issued during a meeting in Washington between Dan Goldin, Nasa administrator, and James Sensenbrenner, chairman of the science committee in the House of Representatives. In April, Mr Sensenbrenner included a provision barring further astronauts from Mir in the Nasa budget as it was passed by the House. The Bill is now awaiting consideration by the Senate before going to President Clinton for signature.

Although the ban is not yet law, Mr Sensenbrenner said: "I for one can no longer sit idly by as mishap after mishap occurs while we continue to plan the next shuttle mission to Mir in September, hoping for, but not really expecting, that the mission will succeed without a potentially life-threatening situation."

Mr Sensenbrenner demanded that Mr Goldin initiate a comprehensive, independent review of Mir's technical integrity in advance of the September launch, which will bring home Michael Foale, the British-born astronaut who has been aboard Mir for nearly six weeks. Mr Goldin pointed out that a still-secret outside review of the Russian spacecraft had already been conducted.

Mr Sensenbrenner said he did not believe it satisfied the demands of his Bill and it certainly did not address the failures associated with yesterday's crash during the test docking of a cargo vehicle.

The words of Dr Foale are coming back to haunt Nasa. "It will be like working on a second-hand car," he said jauntily as he embarked on his four-month stint in space. In fact, he understated the case by a wide margin. It is one thing to be tinkering under a car that has 100,000 miles on the clock, but quite another trying to hold together an orbiting clunker that was built to spend five years in space and has been there for 11.

In the bonhomie of international collaboration, Nasa glosses over its concerns about



Michael Foale seemed happy to be aboard Mir after his arrival on May 17. He is due to stay until September

Mir. A rare comment on the record came earlier this month from Dr Foale's American predecessor as a long-term guest on Mir, Jerry Linenger.

He said: "After the fire, it seemed like every day something else was going wrong." The brief flash fire last February in an air filter was, like most of Mir's troubles, associated with life support systems.

The primary oxygen generator failed, the air conditioning conked out, the carbon dioxide extractor broke down and the spacecraft developed a list. In an incident similar to yesterday's collision, cosmonauts lost control of a cargo craft as it tried to dock.

Nasa officials are defensive about Russia's space programme. Audrey Schwartz, a Nasa spokeswoman, said: "The Russians are as resourceful as our Mission Control at handling real-time problems. They know their equipment very well."

But there is no disguising that since the break-up of the Soviet Union the Russian space programme has lost prestige, and more importantly, its virtually unlimited funding from Moscow. As a result, the Russians are behind on

their contributions to the international space station that is intended to take over from Mir as a permanently manned orbiting laboratory.

Originally due to be launched in November, it has now been delayed at least until next June.

□ The cosmonauts are showing signs of becoming irritable, according to a Dutch amateur radio enthusiast who has monitored communications to Mir for many years.

Chris van den Berg says that on every pass, Tsibilyev and Lazutkin discuss with mission control how their repairs are going. "They are finding a lot of problem with cables and contacts which they cannot find or do not fit."

Mr van den Berg believes the problems and setbacks of the present mission are taking their toll on the cosmonauts. They have been on Mir for 136 days, and were joined by Dr Foale just over a month ago. Dr Foale told his father last week the Russians were anxious that their relief crew would be launched on time on August 8. Previous missions have been delayed.

Additional reporting by Robin Lodge in Moscow, and Nigel Hawkes

Briton who wanted to explore new worlds

BY JOANNA BALE

MICHAEL FOALE is an "explorer and dreamer" who did everything possible to achieve his boyhood ambition of becoming an astronaut, his mother said yesterday.

Mary Foale, a retired Cambridge University librarian, said: "Like the Star Trek theme, he wanted to boldly go where no man had gone before. He wanted to seek new worlds and new ideas."

"As a little boy, he talked of little else after being inspired by John Glenn, the first US astronaut to orbit the Earth."

Mrs Foale regularly sends her son bars of English chocolate, which are transported to Mir in supply rockets. She said: "What will most annoy Michael is that it will probably delay a couple of packages we have sent up for him. Every now and again we are allowed to send up parcels weighing no more than a couple of pounds via these modules."

Mrs Foale and her husband Colin, a former RAF Air Commodore from Cambridge, last had contact with their son on Saturday through e-mail messages relayed to Mir via Moscow. They last spoke to him on Father's Day, by satellite phone link. Mrs Foale said: "He was very cheerful and upbeat. He said he was looking down at



Mary Foale spoke to her son on Father's Day

Britain and all he could see was the cloud cover."

Of the accident, Mrs Foale said: "I don't think there is any danger, but there is an escape vehicle they can use if there is a serious problem."

Mrs Foale, who is American, said that her son's ambitions had begun "when, aged six, he saw the John Glenn capsule at a State Fair in Minnesota on a trip to see his grandparents. It became his dream and he was very single-minded in pursuing it."

As a schoolboy, he covered his bedroom walls with photographs from the Nasa press office and lost himself in science fiction books.

He even regarded the rig-

ours of life as a boarder at King's School, Canterbury as good preparation for life on board a space shuttle because there is "no personal privacy, the food is rotten and there are no women," according to a recent interview.

After a doctorate in astrophysics at Queen's College, Cambridge, he tried to interest the British Government in a manned space flight. When this failed, he used his dual nationality to emigrate to America to pursue his career in the US space programme.

His first job was in Houston, Texas, working on space shuttle navigational problems at the McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corporation. In June 1983, he joined Nasa's Johnson Space Center, working in payload operations. There, he met his wife Rhonda who was working as a shuttle engineer. He was selected for astronaut training by Nasa in 1987, and passed in August 1988.

A father of two, he is a veteran of three space shuttle flights in which he spent a total of 634 hours in orbit. In November 1995 he flew on the first shuttle to rendezvous with Mir and became the first Briton to walk in space.

Mr Foale, 40, is one of the few American astronauts to speak fluent Russian and spent 18 months training at the Cosmonaut Training Centre in Star City, Russia.

SPACE ACCIDENTS

October 1960, USSR: military rocket blows up on launch pad and kills many technicians, including head of Space Forces.

January 1967, USA: Apollo 1 catches fire on launchpad. All three crew killed.

April 1967, USSR: Soyuz 1 suffers from many problems, culminating in loss of cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov when the capsule spins uncontrollably and parachute tangles around itself and fails to open.

April 1970, USA: Apollo 13 crew survive onboard explosion of fuel tank which results in loss of electrical power and oxygen.

June 1971, USSR: Soyuz 11 crew lost when valve accidentally opens during return to Earth and crew are asphyxiated as they are not wearing spacesuits.

April 1975, USSR: Soyuz 18 fails to separate from booster on cue and starts to tumble on the edge of space. By firing emergency rockets, the crew survive but the capsule lands in waist-deep snow.

September 1983, USSR: Soyuz T-10 booster explodes on launchpad due to engine fire. Crew fire emergency rescue rocket and are pulled away from resulting explosion.



Apollo 13's fuel tank exploded in 1970

January 1986, USA: Challenger explodes 73 seconds after lift-off on 25th Shuttle mission. Crew of seven are killed and debris is still washing up on the Florida shores today.

February 1997, Russia: fire aboard Mir caused by emergency oxygen generating equipment causes serious damage, but crew survive.

Mir in space collision

Continued from page 1
whether the accident was caused by faulty equipment or human error. Vasily Tsibilyev, a Russian cosmonaut, was at the controls when the accident occurred.

With him aboard Mir are Alexander Lazutkin and Mr Foale, who arrived about a month ago. Both were helping with the docking procedure.

Had an emergency evacuation been necessary, the crew could have used the Soyuz capsule attached to the other end of the station to make a quick exit and return to Earth. But there was no indication yesterday that this option had been seriously considered.

The damage to the Spektr module will wreck Mr Foale's experiments, which were housed inside it. He had been growing plants through a series of generations, raising seeds, pollinating flowers, and creating fresh seeds for a second and then a third generation. The aim was to check

the effects of zero gravity on the growth of plants. It will also leave Mr Foale without a place to sleep, as the module served as his living quarters as well as his laboratory.

Repair of the Spektr module in space is likely to be difficult, if not impossible. Mr Blagov said that the crew might have to make space walks to connect the solar panels on Spektr to the main module of Mir with cables. Repressurising Spektr would involve sealing the damage caused by the crash and that could well be impossible in space.

As for the Progress M34 supply ship which did the damage, it remained in orbit close to the space station. Once all the data it contains has been studied, it will be discarded to burn up in the atmosphere, as is normally done with such craft at the end of their mission. A new Progress, M35, is ready with fresh food and equipment and was due for launch at the end

of this week. The manoeuvre that went wrong was apparently designed to check the manual docking system, so that it can fully replace the automatic system which takes up a lot of space on board Mir and has repeatedly failed in recent years. The equipment is made in the Ukraine, and experts are unhappy about both its quality and terms of delivery, Mr Blagov said.

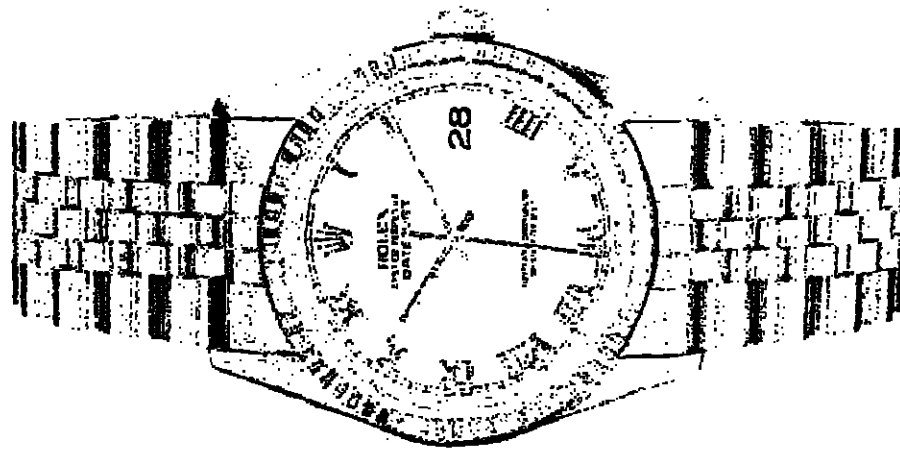
In 1994, another Progress cargo ship twice failed to dock properly with Mir on the automatic system. But on that occasion the cosmonauts succeeded in linking it with the station on a third attempt by using manual controls.

Wednesday's crash was not the first space collision, although it appears to be the worst involving Mir. A supply ship brushed against the space station before, and there have been similar circumstances involving Soyuz spacecraft, said Mr Navias, the Nasa spokesman.

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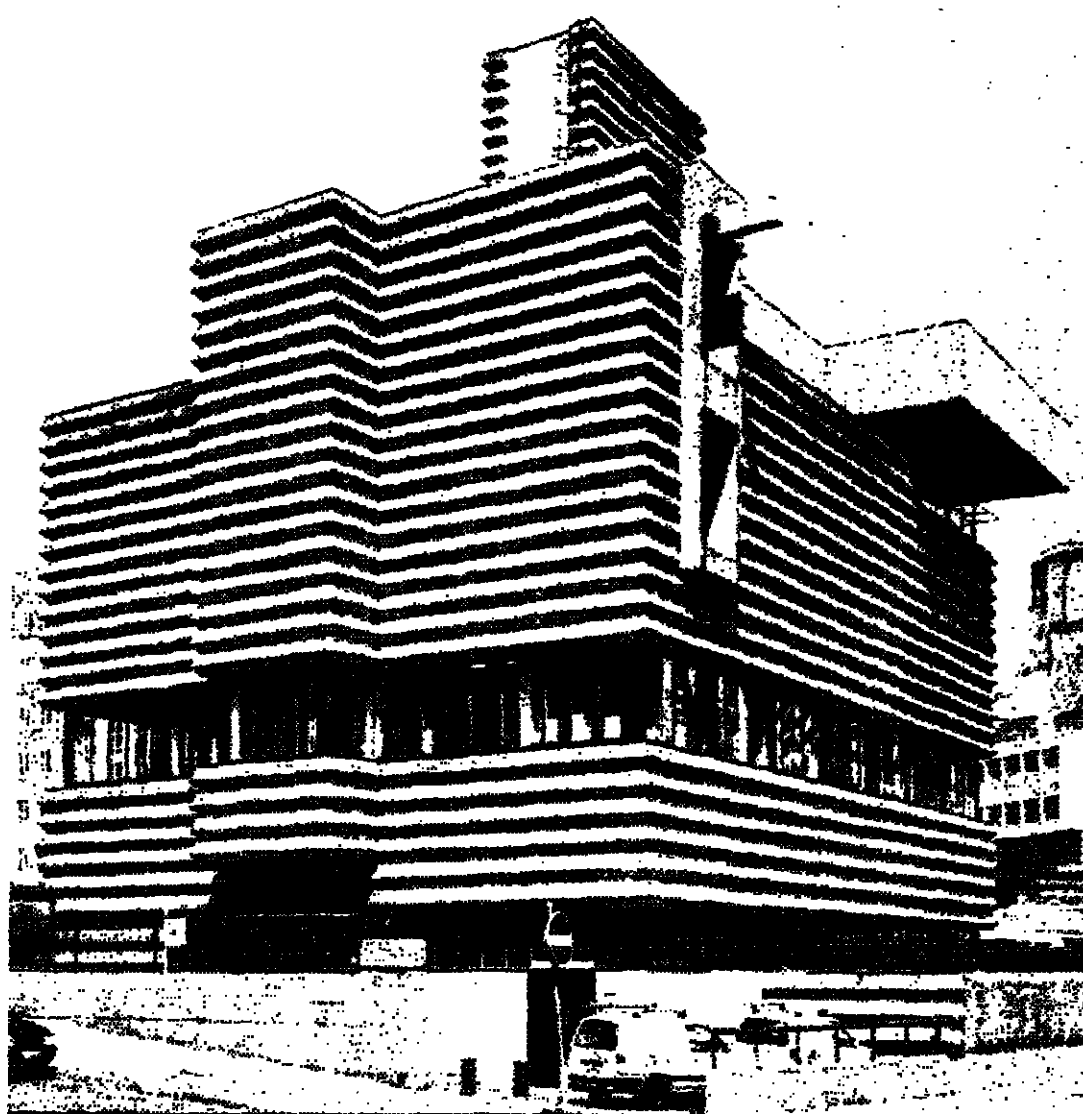
We quote from our own Grade II listing entry.

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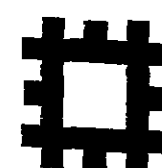
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سوال ال ٢٥



Code 2 means cover the courts immediately, and the teams spring into action. The record is 32 seconds

Game to the undercover heroes of Wimbledon

Stephen Farrell and John Goodbody on yesterday's unmatched stars

COLD and wet, the undercover heroes of Wimbledon huddled in towel cupboards and Portakabins yesterday, waiting for the secret signal to spring into action. After nine hours, it finally came. A prearranged code flashed on to a digital board above Court 7, and the green nylon covers were deflated and pulled back, briefly, to cheers from half-empty stands.

The court-cover squad is made up of 120 students, paid £25 a day

during the championship fortnight. When the sun shines, they are ignored by everyone. But when the rain falls, they suddenly become the most powerful and unpopular people at the event. Sprinting on to the courts, they clear nets, posts, chairs and towels within 40 seconds, bundling off players and line judges. While the Centre Court is covered by the club's own groundstaff and No 1 Court by the Army, the students

are on all outside and practice courts. Until last year, their power was absolute. Umpires who refused to move were wheeled off in their chairs. A player who grumbled — including, memorably, Jimmy Connors — suddenly found himself jumping to avoid a heavy roller.

They operate in teams of six, with only one woman per team because they are deemed less able to pull the rollers. Two of the team must

remain court-side at all times, no matter how sunny; and the working day can be 8am to 10pm. Their lives are governed by the referee's hotline to the weathermen.

While other eyes are fixed on the Centre and No 1 Court scoreboards, they stare in the other direction to watch for code numbers of the crowd's nest scoreboard. The code is: 1, standby; 2, cover immediately, even if rain has not yet begun; 3, inflate; 4, deflate; 5,

uncover. For tennis fans it is the ideal job, and there may be other compensations. Each year rumours abound of late-night sexual activity on the hallowed turf under the inflated covers. Veterans recall great amusement when the Court 5 team arrived the morning after a party to find champagne glasses, contraceptives and a discarded stocking on the grass.

This year has had a tough start. Rain badly disrupted the qualify-

ing tournament at the Bank of England ground, which affected the build-up for the main event. A senior member of staff said: "It was the worst possible start. At no stage could we get all the teams together for practice. Most of the students are new this year and they have been kept by their courts the whole time." However, this year is unlikely to equal the worst of all. In 1922 it rained every day.

The average time for covering a

court is 40 seconds, and the all-time record 32 seconds. This year, the crowd's nest staff have observed, the Court 7 team is the quickest at yesterday's umbrellas remained retracted until 5.30pm, and even then the respite was brief. In less than an hour, the covers were back on before even a single point had been played in some matches.

Letters, page 25
Tennis, pages 48 & 52

More rain this month than all of summer '95

By MARK HENDERSON

THE wet weather which washed out four hours of play at Wimbledon yesterday and blighted the Lord's Test is the worst for ten years, the Meteorological Office said yesterday. It is already the wettest June since 1991 and, if the rain continues, as is forecast, it will be the wettest since 1987.

There has been more rain since June 1 than in the entire summer of 1995, with 87mm already recorded. Hosepipe bans and drought restrictions are unlikely to be lifted, however. The Environment Agency said that reservoirs would need several more months of similar rain levels to benefit.

The forecast is for more showers, and the Met Office thinks the June 1991 figure of 93mm is almost certain to be eclipsed, though it would need to rain heavily for every remaining day of the month to beat the June 1987 figure of 105mm.

Wimbledon narrowly avoided losing a whole day's play for the first time since 1992, when the second Friday was rained off. Only 27 days have been lost

completely to rain in the championships' 110-year history. In 1995, no rain fell during Wimbledon fortnight.

Andy Yeatman, of the Met Office, said the rain had been caused by an area of low pressure over Britain that had not moved away as quickly as usual. "Normally low pressure whizzes across the country and is gone in a few days. This one just sat there, so we got grey skies and lots of showers."

The low pressure, which was forecast in the Met Office's latest long-term bulletin, is likely to remain for at least another week, bringing the prospect of further disruption to Wimbledon and the Old Trafford Test match, which starts next Thursday.

Piers Corbyn, of Weather Action, which produces long-range forecasts using solar activity, said that more rain was expected in July. "There is a lot of solar activity at the moment, which tends to make weather cycles more extreme."

Forecast, page 26

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Princess pulls out of mines meeting after Tory censure

By Emma Wilkins

DIANA, Princess of Wales, was "extremely disappointed and frustrated" yesterday after deciding to withdraw from a meeting at the House of Commons to discuss a world-wide ban on landmines.

It is understood that the Princess, who returned from New York early yesterday, was shocked by criticism of her proposed visit to the Commons by some Tory MPs.

They claimed that the Princess's attendance at the meeting, to be addressed by the Independent MP Martin Bell, would break the convention that members of the Royal Family do not become involved in party politics.

The Princess had talks with her staff at Kensington Palace overnight, and made the decision not to attend the meeting after she arrived home from the United States. A statement said: "As the Princess has stated on a number of occasions, her involvement in the issues surrounding anti-personnel landmines is exclusively humanitarian."

"The all-party private meeting was to have been an opportunity for the Princess to be further briefed on certain of the issues. Details of the meeting have, however, now been made public and a political dimension has been introduced to its purpose. As a consequence the Princess's attendance has been made untenable."

Members of the all-party landmines Eradication Group, including the chairman, the Labour MP Frank Cook, will be invited to speak to the

Princess at Kensington Palace. Mr Cook expressed anger about the decision "forced on" the Princess: "Most MPs are happy about her involvement. Twenty-five thousand people a year lose their lives while these small-minded backbenchers are arguing about details on an unjustified basis."

A close friend of the Princess said: "To say she feels extremely disappointed is an understatement. It seems she cannot do anything without someone using it as an excuse to attack her. She thinks it is astonishing that one or two politicians should try to turn this into a political issue. It is a humanitarian issue: anyone can see that. She felt she didn't want to detract from the meeting or have it turned into

It seems she cannot do anything without someone using it as an excuse to attack her

a media circus. She is feeling very sad and frustrated."

David Wilshire, Conservative MP for Spelthorne, who had questioned the constitutional implications of the Princess's visit to the Commons meeting, said he was not sorry that she had decided to pull out. He said he was sympathetic to the Princess's

views on landmines, but believed there should be a proper national debate before any change in the constitutional position of the Royal Family to allow its members to attend political functions.

However, George Foulkes, junior International Development Minister, said during Commons questions: "The Princess of Wales has helped to raise the profile of this issue and it is entirely regrettable she has had to withdraw because of pressure from Members opposite." A Downing Street spokesman said No 10 had not been involved with the Princess's decision.

The Princess has recently addressed politicians on both sides of the Atlantic on the subject of landmines without attracting the ire of Tory MPs. Clare Short, International Development Secretary, was in the audience for the Princess's speech at the Royal Geographical Society two weeks ago. Elizabeth Dole, wife of the former Republican presidential candidate, joined the Princess's campaign in America against landmines. Neither event attracted such political criticism.

"It seems that a very small number of people have managed to create a fuss out of nothing simply because they object to a member of the Royal Family entering the House of Commons," one of the Princess's advisers said.

It is understood that the Princess's decision not to attend the meeting was taken after wide consultation with experts on royal protocol.



The Princess after arriving at Heathrow yesterday. Critics said her Commons visit would break royal protocol

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man and sons die in cliff plunge

An accountant threw himself and his two sons, aged one and three, 400ft off Beachy Head, East Sussex, yesterday, killing them all. Police had been searching for John Chetwynd since his Vietnamese-born wife, Hiet, was taken to hospital after being attacked with a baseball bat at home in Hayes, west London.

Boxer in court

Herbie Hide, former world heavyweight boxing champion, denied kerb-crawling when he appeared in court at Highgate, north London. The case against Hide, 25, from Norwich, was adjourned until August.

Passengers hurt

Ten passengers were hurt, none seriously, when a crowded rush-hour train hit the buffers at Victoria station, London. Railtrack launched an inquiry into the incident, which involved the 6.54am from Ashford in Kent.

Bridge too far

Plans for a second road bridge to span the Forth were shelved by Malcolm Chisholm, the Scottish Transport Minister. The £150 million project was drawn up by the previous Government under the Private Finance Initiative.

Widow wins

A widow given 28 days to leave Britain can stay. Karen Marlow, 32, of Wortwell, Norfolk, an American, was in the United States when her British husband died. Immigration officials said she had no right of residence.

Promise kept

Mark Payton, six, promised to invite Pat and Howard Duke to his wedding after they helped his family in Ibiza. Now 27 and a cabinet maker, he has married at Windsor Castle with the Sheffield couple among the guests.

Independent schools join in summer literacy scheme

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

WO independent schools yesterday joined the Government's summer scheme to improve the literacy of children who attend state primary schools.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced their involvement after News International, owner of The Times, made a donation of £250,000 that will double the number of

children who are able to take part. Mr Blunkett said the donation would help 1,580 11-year-olds to attend classes during their holidays to improve their reading and writing skills before starting secondary school.

The two independents, Dulwich College in southeast London and King Edward's School in Birmingham, were yesterday named among 21 schools joining the 29 originals in the scheme. Mr Blunkett said the project demon-

strated the Government's desire to work with independent schools, which have been wary of Labour's attitude towards their charitable status.

"This is a sign of our encouragement of partnerships between independent and state schools so they can work together for the benefit of all the pupils in their areas," Mr Blunkett said at News International's plant in Wapping, east London.

"Thanks to this generous donation by News International, we can

now fund a total of 50 schools and offer twice as many pupils the opportunity to improve their reading skills."

Les Hinton, executive chairman of News International, said: "The Summer Literacy Schools initiative gives children the opportunity to improve their reading skills at this crucial stage in their school career."

This will allow them to enter secondary education on an equal footing with their friends and go on to achieve the high standards of

education that modern UK business requires."

Hugh Wright, Chief Master at King Edward's School, said his sixth formers would help teachers to give the children 50 hours of lessons. The school already runs weekend classes for local children.

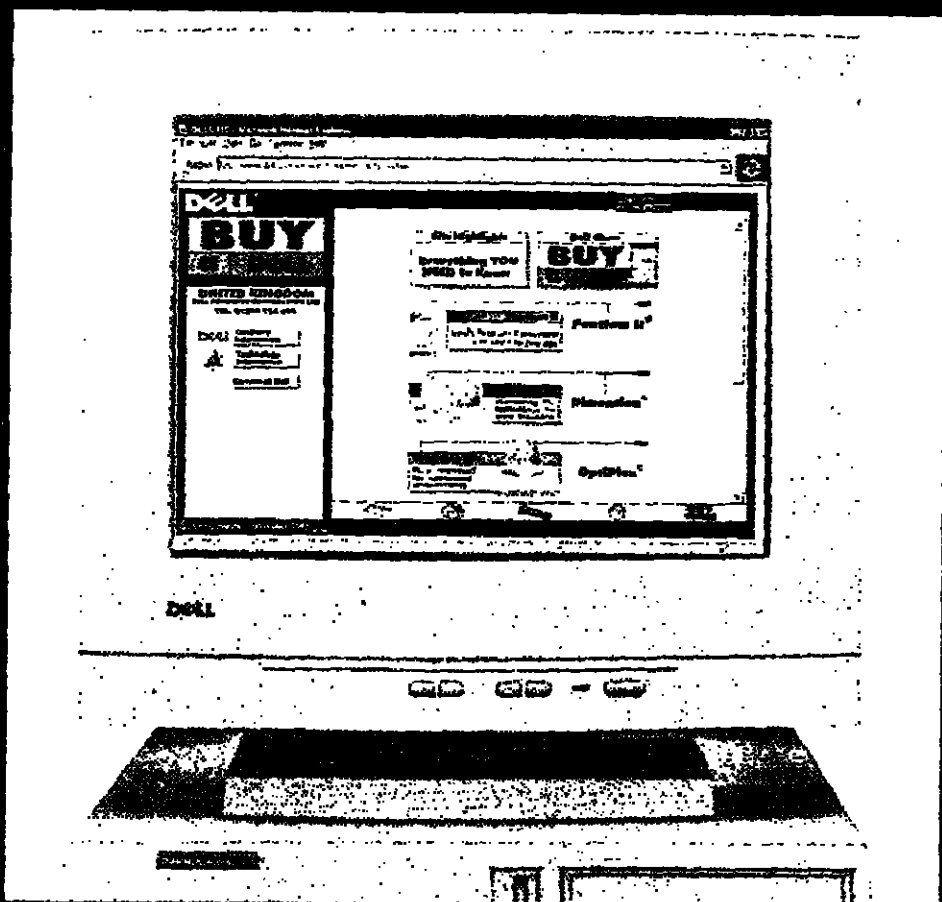
"We were absolutely delighted to be asked to be involved. The Government could not have given a better signal of its plans for partnership with independent schools."

Graham Able, Master of Dulwich

College, said it had run summer lessons on Saturdays for a number of years. "It is a natural extension of the Saturday school concept," he said. "I don't think we would see this as a way of trying to curry favour with any particular political party, but trying to provide a local service."

A number of other companies are also helping the scheme, including Alton Towers, which is offering incentive trips to children from two schools.

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سازمان تبلیغات

Impresario of the West End to stage Greenwich show

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

Her package was also defended by senior Whitehall sources: "She has to achieve a specific result. No-one wants to be remembered as the



Sir Cameron has promised to devise a show which will play for the whole millennium year in a theatre to be called the Drum Arena. He has asked one of his regular designers, John Napier, to

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

Securicor was awarded a contract to escort prisoners in 1994 and has dealt with more than 300,000 inmates.

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BA plans air defence as cabin crew vote to strike

THE travel plans of millions of holidaymakers and business people could be disrupted this summer after British Airways cabin crew voted overwhelmingly yesterday in favour of strike action.

As leaders of the Transport and General Workers Union planned a series of actions designed to ground the airline, BA management prepared a contingency operation to keep most services operating.

Members of the British Airlines Stewards and Stewardesses Association (Bassa), who voted in favour of industrial action, are concentrated in domestic and European short-haul services with the rival, but smaller, union Cabin Crew 89 dominating the more profitable long-haul routes. BA plans to use management teams, short-haul crew who want to work and cabin staff drafted in from foreign bases to keep the main international routes running to schedule.

The dispute is over a new pay structure designed to increase basic pensionable pay in return for more flexible working. Similar deals have

British Airways management is drafting in staff from abroad as it prepares for a trial of strength with more than 8,000 cabin crew over a pay dispute. Harvey Elliott reports

been accepted by nearly all other sections in the airline and BA insists that it will not make anyone worse off and could bring basic pay rises of up to 24 per cent.

BA claimed that only 40 per cent of the total number of cabin crew have voted for strike action. The T&G-backed Bassa claimed that 6,400 members voted for industrial action with only 1,770 against — a 73 per cent majority.

George Ryde, the T&G's national officer for civil aviation, said that the ballot produced the largest-ever response. "Given the pressure of the management on people to vote 'No' this is a remarkable result," he said. "All we are demanding is that the company negotiates with us."

There is long-running resentment among cabin crew over what they regard as "threatening" actions and

statements by management. Potential strikers were yesterday warned that they faced the sack and possible financial penalties for any losses BA might incur.

All 12,000 cabin crew members were sent a personal letter pleading with them to ignore any strike call and detailing ways in which they could get to work if they wished. The union is to meet on Monday to decide what action to take.

It will have to give BA seven days' notice of any action, which could take place in mid-July — almost certainly timed to coincide with the peak holiday season after schools have broken up.

If even a handful of the 12,000 cabin crew in the airline walk out some cancellations or delays are inevitable because of CAA safety rules governing the number of cab-

in crew. BA is determined to face down any strike action and managers are confident that they can keep most flights operating. "There is no strike announced yet so there is no need for any passenger to change travel plans at the moment," a spokesman said.

Bob Ayling, the British Airways chief executive, said last night that he was sad that Bassa had involved its members in a possible strike. "Many of our employees are already coming to us to help them come to work in the event of a strike," he said.

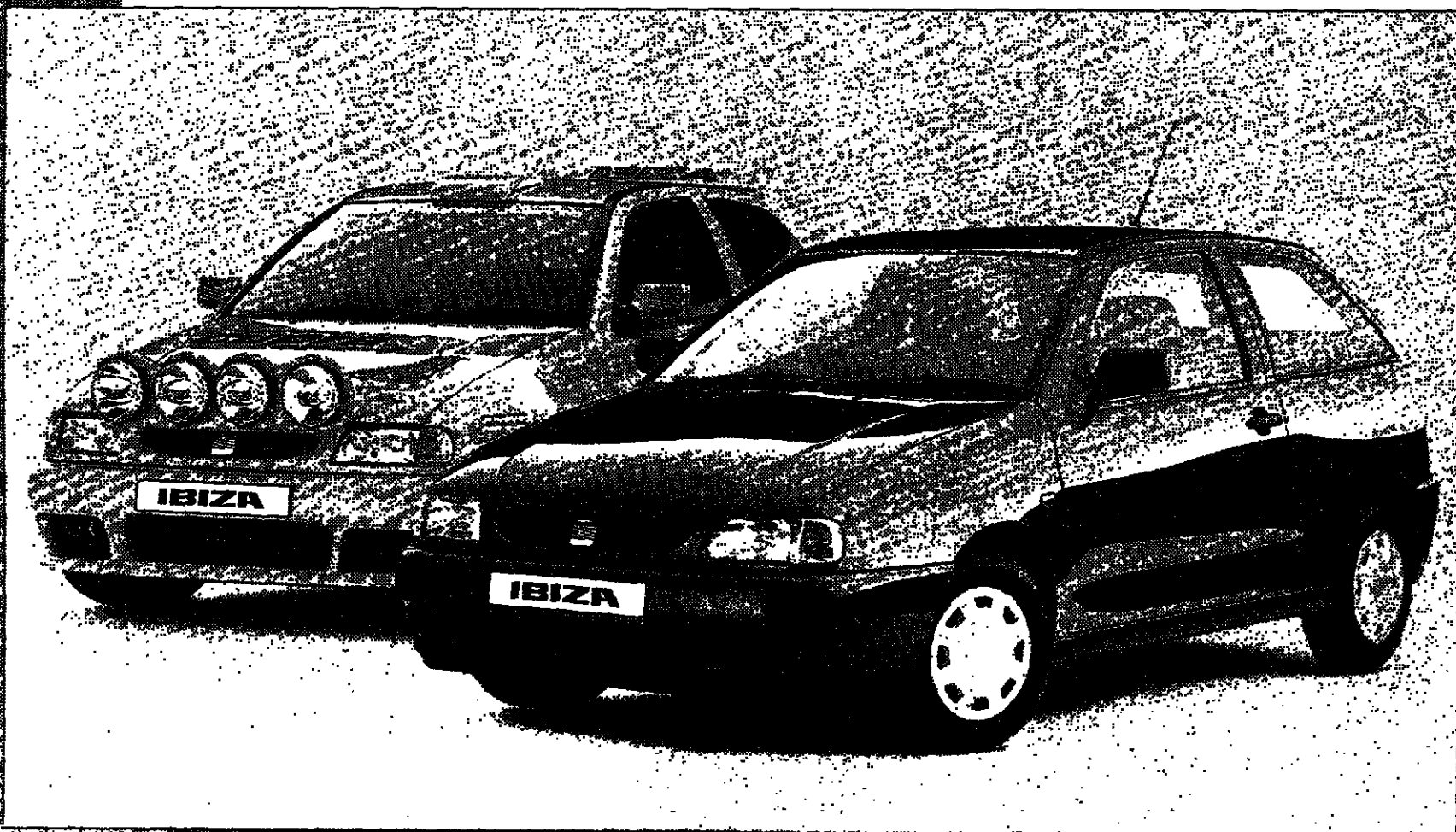
Cabin Crew 89, which says that it has seen its membership rise since the dispute began, accused the T&G of attempting to create "an old-fashioned image of toughness". Bassa insisted that it was reflecting the views of the vast majority of BA cabin crew. "By any democratic test it is clear that the members do not believe BA management when they say they will not lose out in this deal which has been imposed upon them," a spokesman said.

Travel News, pages 42, 43



BA chief executive Bob Ayling and operations director Mike Street, left, yesterday

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Bingham calls for inquiry into crime and punishment

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chief Justice last night called for a Royal Commission to be set up into the effects of punishment on criminals, particularly young offenders.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the most senior judge in England and Wales, said that it was now widely believed that a "significant number of teenagers were dangerous and a menace to society".

The system of youth justice was under scrutiny but the police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the courts could not solve the problem of juvenile crime on their own. The time was ripe for a "comprehensive review" of crime and punishment either by a Royal Commission, or by reviving the Advisory Council on the Penal System, Lord Bingham said.

Giving the Prison Reform Trust's annual lecture, he said: "The beginning of a new Parliament is the ideal moment for such an initiative." If such a commission could reach "authoritative conclusions" which commanded public and professional respect and were enacted, this Parliament "would earn an assured place in the history of this country".

Lord Bingham said that there was a "small but identifiable core" of young offenders whose criminal conduct called for serious punitive sentences. "Nothing else will afford the public adequate protection, or satisfy the public that grossly anti-social behaviour is adequately punished." However, he added, "We should never lose sight of the human suffering so often involved."

Lord Bingham expressed support for the view that the Government is undertaking into the youth justice system, and for its moves to expedite

the courts' handling of young offenders — provided that the legitimate interests of defendants and the independence of judges and magistrates were safeguarded. He also called for measures to be taken to divert young people from crime at the earliest opportunity, and to tackle the root causes of offending.

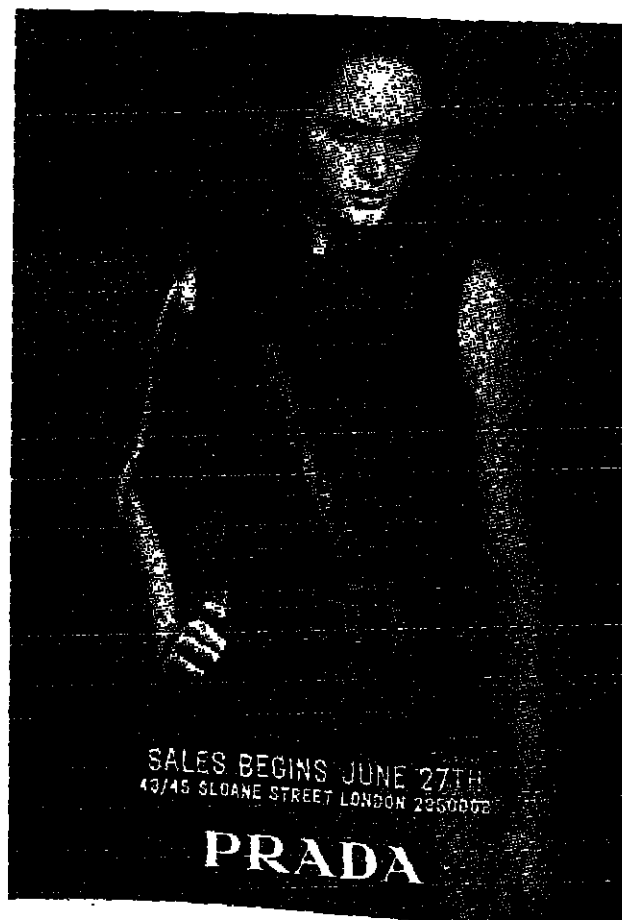
"By the time teenagers appear before the courts as persistent or serious offenders... the opportunity to divert them into more constructive and satisfying ways of life may well have been lost. That is why, in my opinion, every encouragement and support should be

Letters 23

given to schemes aimed to save young offenders from being irretrievably sucked into the criminal process."

The factors which predisposed people to criminal activity were well known, he said. They related to family background, schooling, poverty and other social conditions, and when there were a number of adverse indicators, the chance was greater that a young person would become a persistent offender, he said.

When offending began at a young age, the risk of a settled pattern of delinquency was correspondingly greater. It followed "that the public interest is best served by effectively addressing these problems which (if it can be done) will save the victims of crime much needless misery. This would allow young people to lead constructive and fulfilling lives, rather than offending, and the public purse would be relieved of much of the cost of handling young criminals, who otherwise would go on to do more harm as adults."



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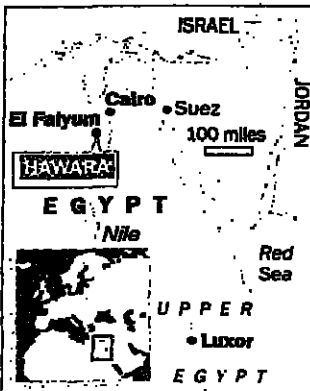
Peter Foster reports as science reconstructs look of past

THE faces of a high-ranking Egyptian man and a woman who died almost 2,000 years ago have been reconstructed from their skulls. The work by a scientist who helps police to identify bodies has shown that the painted portraits on their mummies were realistic depictions.

It has followed the discovery of a mix-up over the work of the great archaeologist Sir Flinders Petrie. He found the skulls and the mummy portraits in 1888 in a burial pit at Hawara, southwest of Cairo, but the find was somehow broken up in Britain. The portraits have been at the National Portrait Gallery, but no one knew what happened to the skulls.

They were rediscovered after a chance encounter between Paul Roberts, Curator of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum, and Meredith Thompson, an archaeology student at University College London. Dr Roberts mentioned the lost skulls in a lecture. Ms Thompson revealed that she was studying some of them for her undergraduate dissertation. They were lying in boxes in a London museum which was unaware of their real importance, although they were clearly labelled in Petrie's handwriting. The identity of the museum is not being revealed.

The reconstruction of the



Sir Flinders Petrie made his Hawara find in 1888. Now the head of an Egyptian woman, reconstructed from her newly rediscovered skull, is on show with its mummy portrait, behind

skulls was commissioned by the British Museum, which is staging an exhibition of more than 200 mummy portraits dating from 1st and 3rd century Roman Egypt. Richard Neave, Artist in Medicine and Life Science at the University of Manchester, was given the skulls to work on, but was not shown the portraits which belonged to them, so that he could not be influenced by them.

He spent two weeks painstakingly rebuilding the faces in clay before casting the heads in wax and bronze, with the help of John Prag, Keeper of Mediterranean Archaeology at the Manchester Museum. When the work was finished, the sculpted heads were compared with the portraits and found to bear an almost exact resemblance. Mr

Neave's experience includes work for the police, and reconstructing the head of Lindow Man, an Iron Age man found in a peat bog near Manchester in 1984.

Dr M.L. Bierbrier, Assistant Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum,

said that the project had clearly shown that the mummy portraits were intended as realistic depictions of their subjects. More than 1,000 of the portraits, painted on limewood, have survived.

Virtually nothing is known about the lives of the two

people whose faces were so dramatically reconstructed by Mr Neave. Hawara was a provincial town roughly equivalent to Bath in Roman Britain, and the mummies are thought to be of local nobility and high-ranking soldiers.

Their presence in a pit suggests that they had been moved from their original burial-places to clear space for subsequent generations of dead.

Petrie imported 81 portraits, 12 complete mummies and 65 skulls. Nineteen of the skulls have now been found. The

location of the remaining 46 remains unknown. According to Dr Bierbrier, Petrie had a fascination with heads.

He kept well over 60 in a special room at his house which he called the "skullery" and, before he died in Jerusalem, he asked for his head to

be returned to England in a hatbox.

□ Ancient Faces: Mummy Portraits from Roman Egypt is at the British Museum, Great Russell Street, London, until July 20. For more information, ring 0171-580 1788.

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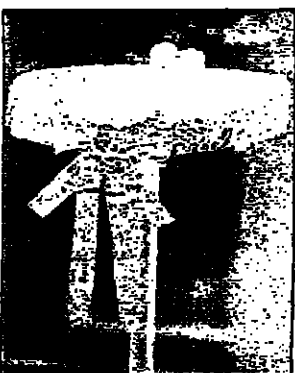
(9/6)

Crown on display after 4,000 years

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A RARE Egyptian crown, kept in a sitting-room by a family who did not realise its value, went on show to the public for the first time yesterday.

The crown is thought to have been taken from the tomb of Queen Mentuhotep, who died 4,000 years ago, and there is only one other like it. The owner, a businessman from London, discovered its rarity a year ago when it was seen by an expert. The crown has been loaned



Fit for a queen: diadem was kept in sitting-room

for 12 months to an exhibition at Highclere Castle, the family home of the Earl of Carnarvon, grandson of the 5th earl who helped Howard Carter to discover the tomb of Tutankhamun.

Lord Carnarvon, who is the Queen's racehorse trainer, said the silver crown was part of Egyptian displays at the castle to mark the 75th anniversary of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. "It is an immense pleasure and privilege to have this beautiful and rare diadem at the castle," he said.

The burial crown is thought to have been taken from the bandaged head of the queen in her tomb near the Valley of the Kings, where Tutankhamun's tomb was found in 1922. It is believed to have been brought to Britain by the grandparents of the businessman who owns it. Adrian Wiley, curator of the Highclere museum, near Newbury, Berkshire, said the owner had not been offered enough money to part with it but wanted it to be put on show in a museum.

Officer is jailed for RAF theft

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A FORMER RAF officer who was in charge of finances at the largest base in Britain was jailed for three years yesterday for stealing \$60,000 from the service.

Oxford Crown Court was told that, after nine years as a captain in the Army, Donald Hadley, 41, joined the RAF as a flight lieutenant. He ran the accounts office at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire until he left the service last August.

After three bags of new dollar notes destined for Germany went missing, police discovered he had bought a new Volkswagen Golf for £17,000 with US dollars, and a further \$20,000 was found hidden in the kitchen at his home in Birmingham.

Hadley had denied burglary and theft.

Fat risk to small babies

BY NIGEL HAWKES

SMALL babies tend to grow up "apple-shaped", a study in Southampton has shown.

This may help explain the link established by David Barker and his team at Southampton University between low birthweight and the increased risk of illnesses such as heart disease later on. In a study presented last week at the European Congress on Obesity in Dublin and reported in *New Scientist*, of 250 adolescent girls, Professor Barker found that the lower their birthweight, the greater their tendency to accumulate fat around the middle, rather than on the hips and thighs. Preliminary results showed that the same was true of boys.

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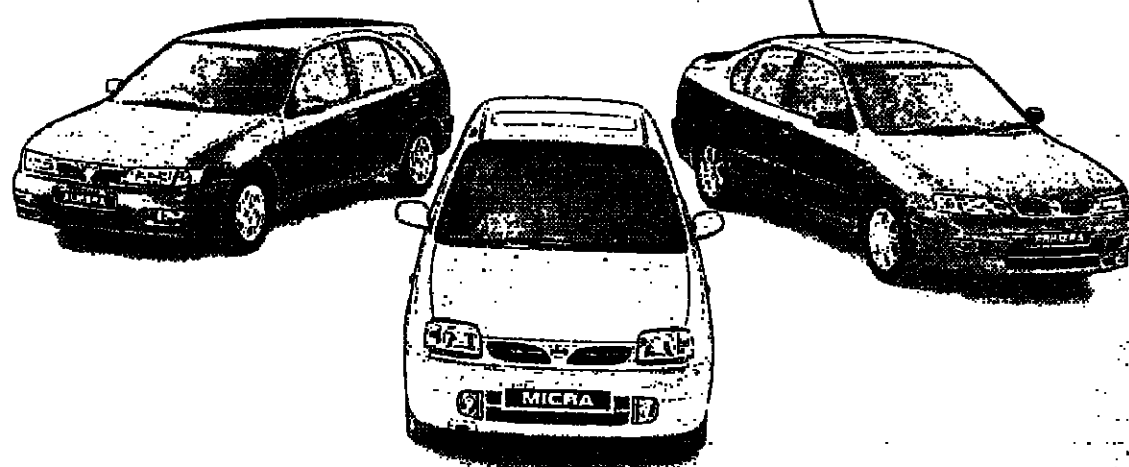
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Publican banned after train kills alcopop boy

Under-age drinker's death brings more calls for controls, says Richard Duce

A PUB landlord and his wife were yesterday fined more than £7,000 and lost their licence after selling alcopop to a 14-year-old boy who later died under the wheels of a train.

Graham Bailey, from Aughton, near Ormskirk, Lancashire, had been to a friend's fifteenth birthday party last November when he was among a group of teenagers asked to leave the Swan Hotel in Scarisbrick, near Southport, after they became rowdy. He was crossing the nearby railway line at an unattended crossing when he was hit by a train.

Test later showed he had drunk enough to be three times over the drink-drive limit. Magistrates in Ormskirk were told that the youths had been supplied with Hooch — an alcoholic lemonade — lager and spirits.

Edward Moorcroft, 48, the

licensee, and his wife, Jeanette, 52, admitted a total of 18 offences between them of serving alcohol to underage teenagers and allowing children under 14 in a bar. Moorcroft was fined £6,400 and his wife £1,400 by Ormskirk magistrates, who described events as a flagrant abuse of the licensing laws. The dead boy's parents may now bring a civil suit against the pair.

Last night Alcohol Concern made fresh calls for controls on the way alcopops were being marketed. Their spokesman Lee Lixenberg said: "We want a much tougher regulatory system for the drinks trade to abide by, which has the full weight of the law."

"Realistically, there is often a very thin line between an 18-year-old and someone much younger, which is why we want controls over alcopops so they are no longer attracting

those under 18." The people at the party in the Swan were aged between 13 and 19 and police said that the parents of some of the youngsters committed offences by buying drinks for children. They had been officially cautioned.

Graham's parents were not at the party. They spoke last night of their anger that Moorcroft and his wife let their only son drink. Olive Bailey, 40, said: "Graham was a bright, popular boy and a very keen sportsman. He had lots of friends and was normally very sensible. There is no way that he should have been served with alcohol in a pub."

"On the night of his death he telephoned me from outside the Swan to say that he was all right. That was the last time that I ever spoke to him."

"I could accept it if Graham had got away with being served a glass of lager but in

fact he was drinking all night. Even though Moorcroft has lost his licence we are very bitter and are consulting solicitors over whether to bring a civil action."

Graham, a third-year pupil at Ormskirk Grammar School, was particularly gifted in languages and planned to study French and Spanish university. His father, also Graham, 44, said: "We are waiting to hear our solicitor's view. If he advises that civil action is possible then we will go ahead. We are prepared to lose everything to get justice."

The officer in charge of licensing for South Lancashire, Sergeant Geoff Sumner, said the sentences were the heaviest he had known for liquor offences. He added: "The sales of alcopop should be more controlled. I don't see how anyone can say they are targeted at anyone other than those under 18."



Diane Modahl yesterday. Her case was said to be "not sustainable in law"

Modahl's damages action 'doomed'

THE runner Diane Modahl faced a renewed attempt by the British Athletic Federation yesterday to block the damages action she launched against it after clearing her name of drugs allegations.

The federation was challenging a High Court ruling a year ago that the case could go ahead, despite defence arguments that it was doomed to failure. Modahl, 31, was at the Court of Appeal with her husband and coach, Vicente, to hear David Pannick, QC, for the federation, argue that her claim was "not sustainable in law".

The athlete is suing to recover the £480,000 she spent on legal and medical costs in challenging a four-year drug ban imposed by the BAF after tests carried out in Lisbon in 1994. She seeks a similar figure in punitive damages over the way her case was handled. Judgment was reserved.

Irish school bars girl who sneezed in English

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A SCHOOLGIRL on an Irish language course in the west of Ireland was expelled for using English to apologise for sneezing.

Michelle Hartnet, 17, who was on the first of her three weeks at Colaiste na bhFiann in Rossmuck, Co Galway, sneezed while having breakfast and quietly said "Pardon me." She was expelled for speaking in English and put on a train back to Dublin. Miss Hartnet said that she had arrived home in tears.

"I was sick and humiliated. I have spent the past 17 years trying to remember to say 'Pardon me' when I sneeze, and it just slipped out in English. I did not shout it out but said it very quietly. I just forgot."

Every summer, thousands of schoolchildren attend colleges in Gaelic-speaking areas to improve their grasp of the language, which all pupils must study. Miss Hartnet met the £280 fees with earnings from a weekend job.

She said: "I was so excited about going and really keen on learning Irish. But now I am thinking twice about it. It is a dying language and the Irish speakers should be encouraging

people to learn, not frightening the life out of them." About 4 per cent of people in the Republic speak Irish as their first language. Interest in the language has surged in recent years.

The college was accused yesterday of being too strict. However, it said that pupils were fully aware before joining the course that English was banned under all circumstances.

A spokesman declined to discuss the case of Miss Hartnet as her mother has threatened to sue to secure the return of her daughter's money. The spokesman said: "English is not allowed. They are the rules. There is no leniency."

Irish people suffer discrimination in Britain, where they are often viewed as lazy and stupid, heavy drinkers and fraudsters, according to a report published by the Commission for Racial Equality yesterday. Some British people automatically assume that Irish people support the IRA, the report's author, Mary Hickman, said, adding that such assumptions were "deeply wounding".

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Belfast girl takes tea at No 10

The Belfast schoolgirl who wrote to the Prime Minister pleading for peace in Northern Ireland took tea with him at Downing Street yesterday. Tony Blair had invited Margaret Gibney, 12, there after she wrote that she had only ever known one year of peace. Mr Blair cited her letter during interviews on American television. Margaret, a pupil at Mount Gilbert Community College, had written the letter as part of a school project. She also asked Mr Blair to nominate his favourite peace poem. He told her in a letter that he had chosen *The Green Fields of France*, by Eric Bogle, who died in the First World War. He presented Margaret with a recording of a setting of the poem by the folk group the Fureys.



Margaret Gibney with the Prime Minister at Downing Street yesterday

Labour IRA guns offer puts Adams on the spot

If the Sinn Fein president fails to convince IRA hardliners of Britain's good faith, he may have to split from them, reports Nicholas Watt

TONY BLAIR'S initiative on Northern Ireland has turned the tables on Sinn Fein and removed any excuse republicans may have had for accusing Britain of obstructing the peace process.

At a stroke the Prime Minister has softened Britain's stance on the arms issue and guaranteed Sinn Fein a place at substantive political negotiations before any weapons have been handed over.

Sinn Fein and IRA leaders, who held a series of meetings in advance of yesterday's statement, will have to decide whether to take the constitutional road or to risk isolation by returning to the bomb and bullet.

Throughout the past three years of the peace process there has been much talk about "decision days" and "moments of truth", but Gerry Adams knows that he faces a defining moment. Pat Doherty, the Sinn Fein vice-president who is highly respected within the IRA, responded favourably to the

Anglo-Irish paper when he said that it removed the "decommissioning obstacle".

Whether the IRA decides to follow his positive remarks with a ceasefire will depend on two factors. First, the Sinn Fein leadership will have to be satisfied that Britain is offering real talks which will fundamentally alter the shape of Northern Ireland.

Second, if the likes of Mr Adams are convinced of Mr Blair's intentions, they will have to pass the "Keenan test" and convince republican hardliners, such as Brian Keenan, the convicted Belfast terrorist, that Mr Blair has finally convened the long-awaited "all-party peace talks". If Mr Adams fails to pass the Keenan test, he may have to split with the republican hardliners as the price for joining constitutional talks.

In their assessment of the Prime Minister's offer, Mr Adams and his fellow Sinn Fein leaders will be encouraged that they will be invited to the multiparty talks within six weeks of an IRA ceasefire. Republicans were infuriated last November when John Major refused to say how long he would wait after a ceasefire before allowing Sinn Fein to join the talks.

Sinn Fein will also be pleased that Mr Blair has set a deadline of next May for the talks. Republicans felt that the last Government was prepared to let Unionists string out the talks.

Sinn Fein's positive reaction to Mr Blair will be tempered by doubts about the Anglo-Irish paper on decommissioning.

Even though the paper says that decommissioning will happen only in parallel with substantive negotiations, Sinn Fein will be concerned that republicans may be forced to disarm before real progress has been made.

Republicans have dismissed the Stormont talks as a "decommissioning conference" and they will be worried by Mr Blair's insistence that decommissioning must take place once the final talks begin.

Sinn Fein's fears about decommissioning will be seized on by republican hardliners who believe that Britain and the Unionists want to use decommissioning to force the IRA to surrender. Mr Keenan, one of the most inflexible republican leaders who was convicted in the 1970s for his part in the IRA's mainland campaign, split out the hardliners' views on decommissioning in a speech at the

republican plot at the Milltown Cemetery in West Belfast in May last year.

To applause from the crowd, Mr Keenan said: "Do not be confused about the politics of the situation. The only decommissioning that will take place will be the British state in Ireland."

If Mr Adams overcomes his doubts about Mr Blair's offer and decides to follow the political path, he will have to convince the likes of Mr Keenan that there is a fresh opportunity for effective all-party talks. Hardliners are deeply sceptical about pursuing a political path because they say that the last ceasefire in 1994 failed to produce the much-awaited talks.

If Mr Adams is encouraged by Mr Blair, he will have to convince the hardliners that conditions are even more favourable than in 1994, when it appeared that Washington, Dublin and the SDLP would put pressure on Britain to convene talks.

Republican leaders have been holding a series of meetings with activists throughout Ireland to brief them on their tactics, though they have stopped short of indicating whether there will be a ceasefire.

One republican in the notoriously hardline area of South Armagh said that the process was similar to the consultations before the 1994 ceasefire. The man, who did not want to be named, said: "Adams will have a hard time to convince the men with the guns down here. They want absolutely clear guarantees that the British will not mess around with a ceasefire in the way they did last time."

As if to drive home their message, IRA supporters in the area have erected a poster extolling the success of Richardson's fertiliser in bombs. Across the poster, the terrorists have scrawled: "Results, Gerry!"



Keenan: wants to know if talks offer is genuine

Talks timetable that may lift obstacles to peace

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR set out a rigid timetable for the multi-party talks yesterday to reassure Sinn Fein that no party would be able to block progress.

In the Government's aide-memoire, which was sent to Sinn Fein on June 13, republicans were told that they would be invited to a plenary session of the talks six weeks after an unequivocal IRA ceasefire.

The paper said that Sinn Fein would be invited to the talks by the end of July if the

IRA declared a ceasefire in mid-June. At the plenary session Sinn Fein would have to sign up to six principles of non-violence, outlined by Senator George Mitchell in his decommissioning report.

In the absence of an IRA ceasefire, the Anglo-Irish decommissioning paper yesterday said that political parties should conclude the opening plenary session by the end of July. The talks would adjourn for the summer and resume on 15 September to begin negotiations on the future of Northern Ireland on inter-party relations within North-

ern Ireland; relations between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic; and relations between London and Dublin.

In the meantime an independent body would be established to oversee the decommissioning of terrorist arms. This would report to a sub-committee of the main talks on progress on decommissioning on both sides of the Irish border.

The main plenary session of the talks would review progress on decommissioning and on the substantive talks every two months. The talks would conclude in May 1998.

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Blair will head 'holy trinity' of TUC speakers

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

TONY BLAIR is to address this year's annual TUC conference, demonstrating that the trade unions are back in from the cold. The shift in their fortunes will also be emphasised by speeches to the conference by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the head of Britain's main employers' body, the CBI.

Welcoming what some union leaders are dubbing the "holy Trinity" of speakers at this year's conference, John Monks, TUC General Secretary, said that the Prime Minister's visit was a "further indication of the new spirit of partnership that has marked this Government's early days."

TUC leaders announced Mr Blair's plan yesterday. He will be the first Prime Minister to address a TUC conference since 1978 when James Callaghan surprised union and political leaders with his decision against calling an autumn general election. Widespread strikes followed in the 1978-79 "winter of discontent" leading to Labour's election defeat in May 1979 and 18 years of Tory government.

Some union leaders feared that Mr Blair, who insists that the trade unions will be treated with fairness but no favours, would snub the TUC by deciding not to speak to this year's conference, to be held in Brighton in September. Traditionally Labour leaders address the annual gathering every other year, and Mr Blair last spoke in 1995.

The Prime Minister has

decided to set his stamp on the autumn party political conference season by giving a speech to the TUC a fortnight before he addresses Labour's annual conference in Brighton.

Mr Blair is expected to welcome the unions' support for a number of the Government's initiatives, including its welfare-to-work programme, which will be the centrepiece of next week's Budget. John Monks joined business leaders at 11 Downing Street yesterday to hear Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, appeal for them to support the programme.

Mr Blair is also expected to reiterate that the unions must not confuse their own role with that of the Government. He is likely, too, to highlight the tightness of public spending, which will be interpreted by the unions as a warning on pay.

However, the unions' new-found place closer to the heart of policymaking will be emphasised by a speech to the TUC from George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr Carey will address the TUC on the same day as Mr Blair.

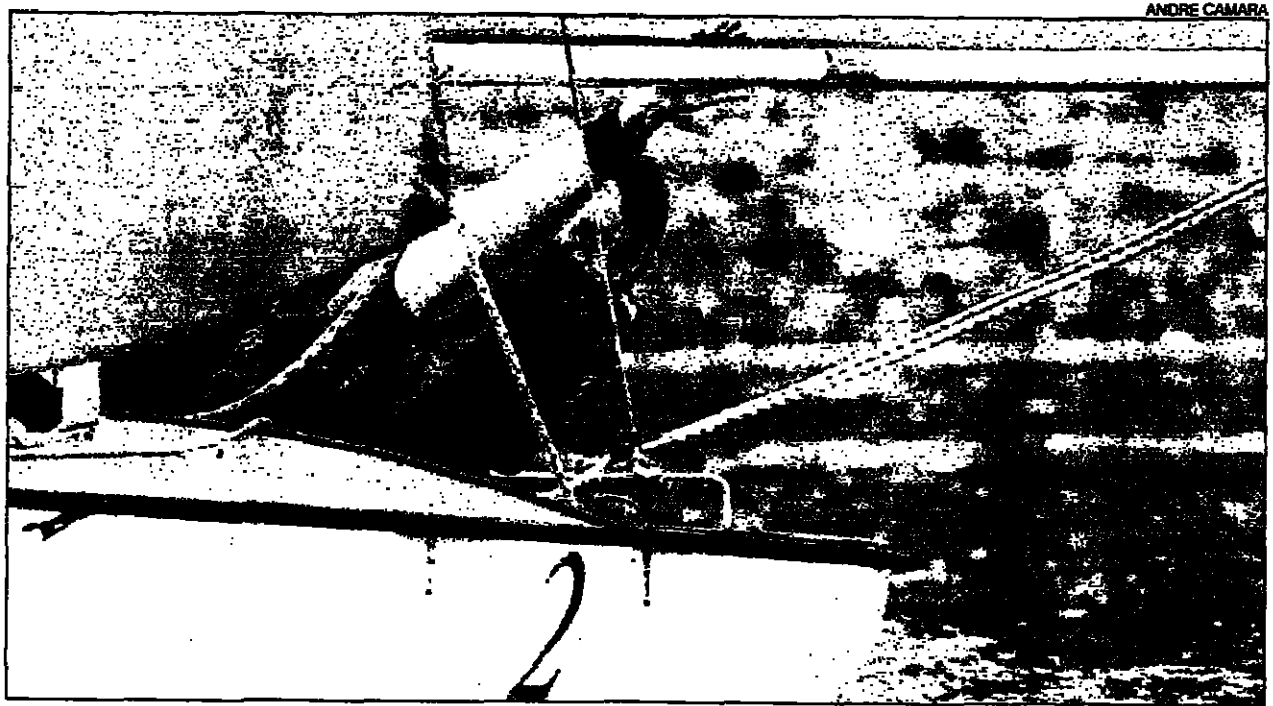
The TUC's hopes of so-called social partnership — European-style closer dialogue with business — will be strengthened with a speech to the TUC by Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry. He is expected to spell out the readiness of business to work with unions on a range of common issues.

Mr Turner's predecessor, Howard Davies, now Deputy

Governor of the Bank of England, became the first CBI leader to address the TUC in 1992.

The TUC's announcements coincided with the less encouraging news for the unions of a decline in membership. Total TUC membership, which stood at more than 13 million when Labour last left office, fell last year to 6.7 million. Although the annual fall of 1.2 per cent marks a slowdown in the rate of decline, membership is still falling at a time when employment is rising, opening up a widening gap between the number of trade unionists and the number of jobs.

The trade unions are trying to counter this by training up to 20 new organisers at a TUC Training Academy. The move, which is aimed at boosting recruitment, was agreed by the governing general council yesterday.



Tory MP Peter Bottomley sailing to victory yesterday in a race on the Thames between the Commons and the Lords

Defeated Tory ma stand fo Uxbridg

By Polly Newton

THE former Transport Minister John Watts is being set a leading contender to the Uxbridge by-election the Tories.

The seat was left vacant the death of Sir Mic Shersby a week after election. His majority was

Mr Watts, 50, lost Reax East to Labour by 3,795 w. He has expressed his int in becoming the candidat Uxbridge and friends sa would be well placed bec he knows the area. He w member of the council nearby Hillingdon for 11 y and was chairman of bridge Conservative As ation between 1973 and 19

The association has no drawn up a shortlist and t is no timetable for selec although a decision is ex ed next month. No date been set for the by-election Labour's candidate is drew Slaughter, 36, a br ter. Keith Kerr, a ger manager for British Airw will stand again for Liberal Democrats.

Ministers rethink 'tartan tax' plan

By Gillian Bowditch and Jill Sherman

LABOUR is having to rethink its plans to give a Scottish Parliament the powers to vary the basic rate of tax by 3p after realising that the proposal is an administrative minefield.

Party sources made clear that there was no intention of dropping what the Tories call the tartan tax, or watering down the

powers. But they conceded that original plans to give Scotland tax-varying powers needed to be revised to take into account changes since the scheme was proposed several years ago. Many fewer Scots now pay the basic rate, meaning a drop in the expected revenue of about £450 million.

Tony Blair has already said that Labour would not use its tax-raising powers during a first Scottish parliament. But the party has to come up with a

workable plan for future parliaments before the referendum this September.

A government committee is now reviewing the plan so that details can be finalised in time for the White Paper on devolution expected to be published next month. Yesterday the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, said: "There is no retreat. We hold to our commitment. The Parliament will have the power to vary income tax around the basic rate."

Labour suspends two accused MPs

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR'S ruling body yesterday suspended two MPs from holding party office in a further sign of Tony Blair's determination to take a tough line on financial "sleaze".

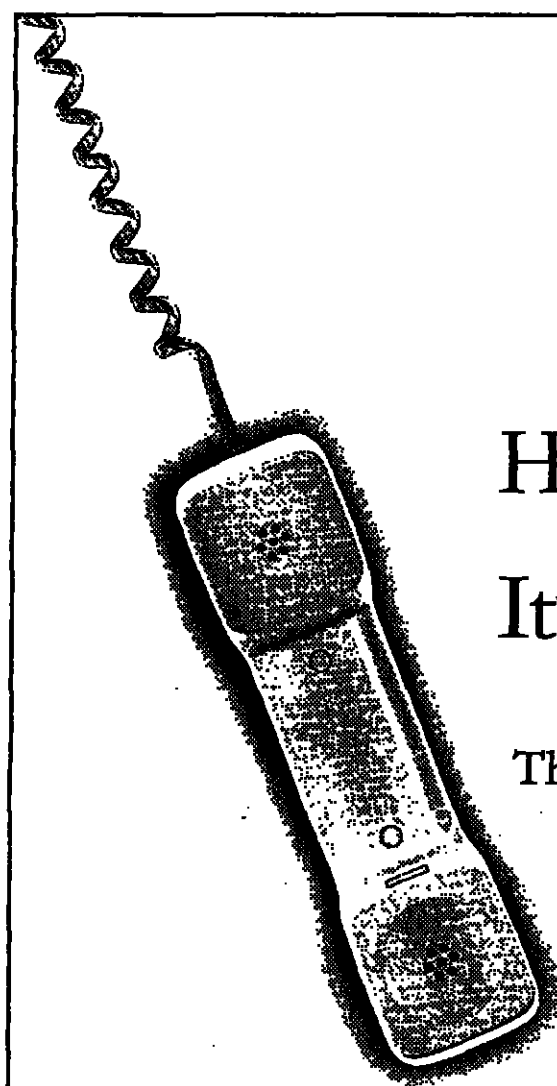
Mohammed Sarwar, the Labour MP alleged to have bribed a rival candidate, and Bob Wareing, the MP alleged to have failed to declare a financial matter in the Register of Members' Interests, have effectively been banished from the Commons. They have been suspended from the parliamentary party and told to be absent except when summoned for key votes.

The two MPs are also to be referred to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Com-

missioner for Standards, to see whether he wishes to take the matter further.

Mr Sarwar, MP for Glasgow Govan, is also the subject of a police investigation but has always insisted that he will be cleared of paying an election rival £5,000 to fight a losing campaign against him.

Mr Wareing, MP for Liverpool West Derby, was suspended from the FLP last Wednesday. Yesterday the National Executive Committee went further and suspended him from holding office or representing the party. Mr Wareing, who is alleged to have accepted payments from a firm in Serbia, has denied any wrongdoing.



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Halford victory over bugged office phones

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ALISON HALFORD, the former assistant chief constable who waged a long battle over sex discrimination, won a European Court case yesterday over the tapping of her telephone, which could herald new privacy laws in Britain.

In an unanimous decision, the nine judges of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg upheld a complaint by Miss Halford that calls from her office in Merseyside, where she held her post, had been intercepted in breach of her right to privacy. They also ruled that Miss Halford, who ten years ago was the highest-ranking woman police officer in Britain, had no avenue for her complaint. They awarded her £10,000 compensation.

The verdict will force the Government to review phone-tapping laws to comply with the Human Rights Convention, to which Britain is a signatory. In particular it will prompt a review of how the law should protect the privacy of employees, as Miss Halford's calls were made from her workplace.

The civil rights organisation Liberty, which backed Miss Halford, said it was an important case which would require changes to the law. John Wadham, Liberty's director, said: "Senior police officers were spying on one of their own employees while she was fighting a sex discrimination case against them. The case establishes a clear right to privacy for employees and the Government will now need to draft legislation to protect this right." Any new laws should encompass more than telephone tapping at work, he said. They should embrace e-mail and other electronic communication.

Yesterday's victory for Miss Halford marks the end of a six-year battle which began when she claimed she began to be passed over for promotion in the Merseyside force nine times because of her sex. She launched a discrimination claim in 1990 and alleged that police then ordered the tapping to try to discredit her.

Government lawyers accepted that there was a "reasonable likelihood" that Miss Halford's office telephones had been bugged after a dispute over her promotion prospects. But they said that any such taps were not a breach of her rights because the telephones were government property.

But the Strasbourg judges said that Miss Halford had a "reasonable expectation" of privacy in making and receiving calls at work and there was no evidence that she had been warned that her telephone might be bugged. The court ruled that the taps were probably ordered in connection with her discrimination claims. But it rejected claims that Miss Halford's telephone at her home in Caldy, on the Wirral, had been bugged.

Her discrimination case



Alison Halford celebrating yesterday's European court ruling on her right to telephone privacy

was resolved with a six-figure settlement in 1992, after her suspension on full pay amid allegations of misconduct concerning claims that she swam in her underwear.

But the Interception of Communications Tribunal threw out Miss Halford's separate case in which she claimed that the Special Branch bugged her office at Merseyside police headquarters and tapped her home telephone on the orders of the Home Secretary.

The tribunal said it was satisfied there had been no contravention of the Interception of Communications Act, and refused to clarify whether the interceptions had taken place or whether they had been authorised by the Home Secretary.

The Home Office wrote to Miss Halford's MP saying that eavesdropping by Merseyside Police on their own telephone system was outside the scope of the Act and would not require a warrant. Now a review of the interception of calls by employers is likely.

Miss Halford's solicitor, Robin Makin, said she was delighted by the outcome. "The principle has been established that an improper inva-

sion of her privacy occurred. It will have tremendous implications. She is extremely delighted to have had such a tremendous victory."

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is considering the court's ruling. "He is looking carefully at whether or not any changes are needed to the law," a Home Office spokeswoman said.

The Merseyside Chief Constable, Sir James Sharples, said: "No agency can ever confirm or deny [whether telephones are tapped], because to do so would undermine the effectiveness of the technique."

The central issue, it seems, is that Miss Halford accepted that English law does not prohibit intercepts of office telephones. She therefore took the Government to the European Court to ascertain whether that omission was a breach of European law.

The European Court has concluded that interception of office telephones would be a breach of privacy and that existing English law does not cover such telephones, but ought to. I believe the Government is now considering the implications of the judgments."

Chief Constable urged to explain his action

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

LAWYERS for Alison Halford yesterday called on Sir James Sharples, the Chief Constable of Merseyside Police, to make an immediate public explanation of his conduct during her battle over sex discrimination. They said his actions brought discredit to the force.

Miss Halford said: "Rather than offering a compromise, the Chief Constable of Merseyside embarked upon a ruthless and covert campaign designed to discredit me, my reputation and my professional career. I have already published my concerns that certain tactics utilised amounted to extremely improper behaviour."

"For a very senior officer to stoop so low as to eavesdrop on a member of his team, to gather material to use against me in my discrimination fight, was a serious matter."

"With the help of my lawyers, I have achieved a remarkable victory both personally and for the general public who are given scant protection to the right of privacy."

"I have proved conclusively that I was under the command of an unethical chief officer who had a total veto over my career advancement," she said. "His behaviour fell far short of what the police and public expect of its servants."

Miss Halford hailed the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights as a "remarkable victory". She said at her lawyers' office in Liverpool that she was alerted to the telephone taps by a "linking" on the line.

Miss Halford, a Labour county councillor in Flintshire and a member of the North Wales Police Authority, apologised to taxpayers for the estimated £3 million to £4 million which she believes it cost to fight her case. Justice was important, she said.

She condemned as "weasel words" Sir James's terse statement that no agency could confirm or deny such matters as telephone tapping because such a move would undermine the effectiveness of the technique.

Husband fights 'warts and all' book on murdered journalist

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE husband of the murdered Irish journalist Veronica Guerin says he is appalled that a "warts and all" account of her work is to be published later this year.

Graham Turley, whose wife was shot dead a year ago today as she was investigating a Dublin criminal gang, is trying to stop people co-operating with the author, Emily O'Reilly, a well-known Irish journalist.

Ms Guerin, 33, was heralded as a hero outside Ireland, receiving a number of posthumous awards, including British journalist of the year. Many of the awards were accepted on her behalf by her son, Cathal.

In Ireland, however, opinion has been divided on whether Ms Guerin was a brave journalist exposing the criminal underworld or a naive woman who did not realise the danger she was in. Many people, including her brother, James, feel her death could have been easily prevented if her newspaper, *The Sunday Independent*, had taken action to protect her and "rein her in".

Ms O'Reilly, political editor of the *Sunday Business Post*, said that the truth had to be told about Ms Guerin and her relationship with the newspaper. "The public telling of Veronica's story and the private telling are very different. In the past year, anybody who put their head above the parapet and tried to question



Graham Turley with his wife and son. He is angry that he was not consulted

her way of working, or the newspaper she worked for, was shot down."

"Veronica was not a saint. She was a very public figure who died in a very public manner and questions need to be asked and answered."

While describing Ms Guerin as an exceptional journalist, Ms O'Reilly will portray the reckless and obsessive side of her character and seek to discover whether she might have been used by her newspaper to increase sales.

Mr Turley said Ms O'Reilly, whose journalism is well regarded in Ireland, was not a close friend of his wife and knew little about her. "I am disgusted that this individual

has gone ahead with this book without contacting me or various other members of Veronica's family. I stated last December that I did not want any books or films to be produced on Veronica in such a short time after her death."

Ms Guerin interviewed most of the Dublin criminals who lived in open splendour on the proceeds of illegal drug dealing. Despite being shot in the leg in 1995, she carried on with her investigative work. Then in June last year two men on a motorbike pulled up beside her car at traffic lights on the outskirts of Dublin and shot her five times.

The killing prompted a clampdown on crime and, in

the ensuing 12 months, the murder rate has fallen by half and more than 100 firearms have been seized. About £1 million in assets have been confiscated, including houses and cash stashed in bank accounts in Ireland and abroad. Almost 200 people have been arrested and leading criminal figures have fled the country. Assistant Commissioner Tony Hickey said: "There is no doubt that the investigation has been a success. The rate of crime is down dramatically."

Paul Ward, 32, from Dublin, has been charged with Ms Guerin's murder. Patrick Holland was arrested and charged with drug offences.

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Briton who killed Bosnian refuses offer of freedom

A FORMER Royal Marine discharged from his three-year sentence in Sarajevo prison has opted to stay behind bars, demanding a pardon or retrial from the Bosnian state.

Cy Mackintosh was found guilty by a military tribunal last year of the manslaughter of his battalion commander in the Bosnian Green Berets. He is the only Westerner known to be in jail in Bosnia.

The 34-year-old from Blackpool insists he is innocent. He says he knows too much for the comfort of the Bosnian authorities and accuses the British embassy of ignoring him. "I'm an embarrassment to both," he said in an interview.

A former marine, Mackintosh refuses to discuss his British military career. After leaving the Army in 1989, he says he worked as a computer programmer in Zagreb, where he joined the Croatian Army as an instructor after the rise of nationalism.

In 1992, while protecting journalists on a journey from Split to Zenica, heavy fighting in Bosnia left him trapped behind enemy lines. He joined the Green Berets, one of many Bosnian paramilitary groups, and fought near Breza.

In December, having been awarded the *Zlani Lijanj*, Bosnia's highest military honour, he was evacuated to Britain with a stomach injury. "We were fighting tanks with peashooters," he said.

He returned briefly to Bos-



A former marine claims that he has been mistreated by the state that he fought for, writes Tom Walker from Sarajevo

nia in 1994 with an Australian cameraman and came back again in 1995 in the hope of rejoining his former unit. Unhappy with his battalion commander, he was promised a job as an army instructor after the Dayton peace agreement.

While convalescing in Britain, he converted to Islam.

6 He could go home tomorrow if he would sign a piece of paper, but he wants a retrial

taking the name Safet. He does not consider himself a mercenary, but a Bosnian soldier with wartime citizenship, and said he fought in Bosnia because of a "belief in principles, in justice". He speaks fluent Serbo-Croat.

On New Year's Day, last year, he wanted to go into Zenica, the nearest town, for a drink. After fighting with the battalion security guard, Mackintosh says, "a gun was

pulled on me". In retaliation, he drew a hand grenade and demanded to see the battalion commander. According to Mackintosh, the commander "smashed me across the face and grabbed it".

In the explosion that followed the commander was killed and Mackintosh was severely injured, with shrapnel wounds to the head. Since then, he claims, he has been mistreated by the Bosnian state. He says that while being taken for a brain scan in Sarajevo he was beaten by military police. International observers demanding to see him were marched out of Zenica hospital at gunpoint. His court martial, he said, "descended into pantomime".

Last September Mackintosh and 40 other prisoners began a rooftop protest at Zenica's "KP Dom" prison over conditions. "We were eating lentils, there were 25 to a room, armed guards, forced drug therapies, labour camps," he said.

"I have no fear of a retrial, if everything is done properly," he said. "Witnesses must be called, including a ballistics expert. What sort of soldier goes to kill his commanding officer and ends up almost as badly injured himself?"



Cy Mackintosh at the prison in Sarajevo where he is being held for manslaughter

Mackintosh has since been transferred to Sarajevo prison where he admitted he was "treated like Tito".

A guard said: "He is the only one demanding to go to the mosque on a Friday. He wants

to be wiser than everybody. In Zenica there are parks, sports fields and fresh air — and yet he compares it to a concentration camp. There are no limits to his attitude. He could go home tomorrow if he would

only sign a piece of paper, but if he wants a retrial, then he needs new proof. The fact is that he did what he did and a Bosnian would have been given a much bigger sentence."

House warns Clinton not to keep US troops in Bosnia

BY IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON
AND MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

PRESIDENT CLINTON has been sent a pointed warning by Congress not to prolong the stay of America's peacekeeping forces in Bosnia.

The House of Representatives voted by 278 votes to 148 to cut off any funds for the troops beyond their scheduled departure date of June next year.

Mr Clinton has said he is commit-

ted to the pullout date but wants to retain some flexibility and would veto any attempt to write it into the Defence Bill. The Senate version of the Bill contains no similar provision and any attempt to overcome Mr Clinton's veto would require a two-thirds vote of both House and Senate.

The House amendment was a chance for nearly all the Republicans and 57 of Mr Clinton's fellow Democrats to express their unease over the Bosnia commitment and Mr Clinton's decision last year to extend the deployment of US troops until

next June. Members took the opportunity to throw barbs at America's Nato allies for not carrying a greater share of the burden to police trouble spots close to their own doorsteps. Congressman Barney Frank, a Democrat, asked: "Can we do nothing by ourselves? When we're talking about problems 100 to 200 miles from our border, this group of wealthy nations acts like a bunch of teenagers that hide behind the United States."

American forces comprise more than a third of the 31,000 Nato troops in and around Bosnia and although

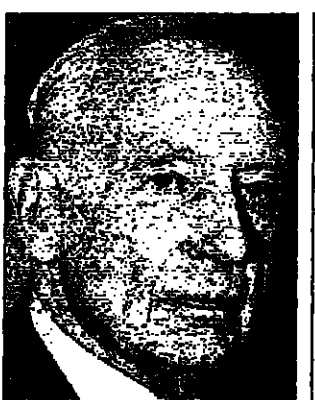
there have been no fatalities, there are concerns in Congress over the growing cost — estimated to total \$7 billion (£4.2 billion).

In London, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that he was still hopeful that there would be an American military commitment to Bosnia beyond 1998. But he made clear that if the Americans withdrew, the other allies would not keep troops in the area. "Continued international support requires the presence of the Americans," he said.

He underlined Western anger at

the failure by all three Bosnian national leaders to implement the terms of the Dayton peace agreement and said they had all sought to delay and impede the formation of a single state. That was disturbing because there were only 12 months left before the allied troops were due to leave.

However, he said he had never known such unity among the allies, who had all used "robust" language to warn the Bosnian leadership of the political and economic consequences, including reimposed sanctions, of failure to carry out their obligations.



Papon: charged with deporting Jews

Delay threat in Papon trial

Bordeaux: The trial of Maurice Papon, facing charges of deporting Jews during the Second World War, could be delayed because of a lack of money to complete renovations to the court here, officials said yesterday. The announcement was criticised by lawyers for the families of deported Jews, who said France could be viewed as trying to protect M Papon, 86, the highest-ranking Vichy official to face charges of crimes against humanity. His trial was to begin in October. (AP)

Nigeria ban must stay, says Cook

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN would veto any attempt to lift the suspension on Nigerian membership of the Commonwealth. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced yesterday, adding that nothing had happened to justify such a move.

"Nigeria is for the moment outside the Commonwealth and should stay outside the Commonwealth," he said. Any change would depend on Nigeria's making "very serious progress" on restoring democracy and improving its human rights record.

The eight-man Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, chaired by Stan Mudenge, the Zimbabwean Foreign Minister, meets in London on July 10 and 11 to take further evidence from human rights groups and others on the situation. It will also draw up recommendations to the Commonwealth summit in October on what to do about the country, as well as the military governments in Sierra Leone and Cambodia. Britain is represented on the

action group by Tony Lloyd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who in opposition was outspoken in condemning the military Government of General Sani Abacha, calling for tougher sanctions.

Mr Cook, voicing for the first time since coming to office Britain's opposition to any Nigerian return to the Commonwealth, said that the country was an interesting example of how economic progress was dependent on political freedom. "Nigeria should be the second richest country in Africa. What holds it back is a corrupt regime and very poor standards of governance," he said.

The action group may meet once more on the eve of the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Edinburgh. Canada and Britain are the hawks pushing for a tough line, but some African members appear to be weakening and suggest that General Abacha has already begun enough moves towards a restoration of democracy.

For valour, a necklace of flies

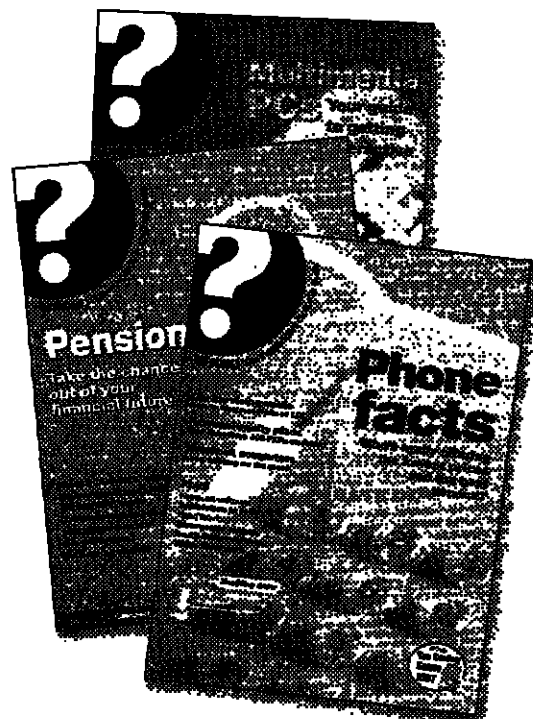
Cairo: Egyptian archaeologists working in the Nile Delta have found a necklace of golden flies thought to be a military decoration awarded by the Pharaoh Ahmose more than 3,500 years ago.

The necklace, with 19 pendants in the shape of flies, was found in excavations at Tell Basta, an important site about 45 miles from Cairo.

The archaeologists found it alongside a cartouche inscribed with the name of Ahmose, the founder of the dynasty which later brought ancient Egypt to the peak of its power and prosperity. The pharaoh ruled from 1570 to 1546 BC.

The head of the archaeological mission, Mahmoud Omar, speculated that the owner of the necklace won it for military service against the Hyksos, Asian invaders expelled by Ahmose after they had ruled northern Egypt for 200 years. He said this type of fly necklace was characteristic of Ahmose's time, but examples existed from other periods. (Reuters)

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WHICH?
THE INDEPENDENT CONSUMER GUIDE

Fire bombs mark French oyster war

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

AN OYSTER war has broken out in southern France, with farmers insulting, attacking and firebombing each other around the once-peaceful shores of Thau lake.

Three oyster-gatherers have stopped work this month after their stalls were doused with petrol and set alight. The old

hands around the lake, near Montpellier, on the Mediterranean, blame newcomers for the violence. Police say they cannot identify the culprits and fear further attacks.

"It is hard to believe, but we used to get on fine together," a producer said yesterday. He said the conflict was started by the failure of family farms to adapt to a competitive world where young entrepre-

neurs want to move in and supermarkets try to force down prices.

The oyster war illustrated French resistance to the modern market economy, he said. Generations of oyster-gatherers have worked at the lake where 800 farms employ 4,000 people, selling produce worth about Fr450 million (£46 million) a year.

The nature of the industry is such that 62 per cent of farmers had parents who did the same job. The mineral-rich waters of the lake enable oysters to grow to full size in about two years, twice as quickly as in the Atlantic.

"It is nice work," the producer said. "We are outside, the weather is good in this part of the world and it is not too difficult. It only takes about a month to learn how to produce an oyster."

Therein lies the problem, Hérault, the département in which the lake is situated, has the worst unemployment rate

in France, 18.8 per cent, compared with a national average of 12.8 per cent. Young jobless people are tempted to prise open the closed world of oyster-gathering, borrowing heavily to buy ropes and cages in which the oysters grow.

"They started to undercut the rest of us to sell their produce and we have all had to follow," the producer said. "If you are only just surviving, you have only one outlet for your oysters and someone else starts selling to the same place, you can imagine how you feel." He added: "What is more, the number of outlets has been reduced greatly in recent years. There are now only about ten big supermarkets who buy all our oysters. They pay what they want."

Like most locals, he believes newcomers hit by the price war are behind the attacks this month on his colleagues. Joseph Coste, Remy Vatuone and Jacky Dutil.

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World Cup dilemma over Nazi-era ruin

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

AS GERMANY beefs up its bid to host the 2006 football World Cup, a row has broken out over the venue that is supposed to be the centrepiece of the contest: Hitler's run-down Olympic stadium.

The problem which has to be unknotted over the next five days is whether to tear it down, give it a facelift, or build a new stadium near by.

The stadium was built for the 1936 Olympics which the Nazis tried to convert into a showcase for their theories of racial purity. The success of black American athletes, including the sprinter Jesse Owens, upset the calculation and Hitler ostentatiously refused to present the medals.

During the war, part of the stadium was used by the Blaupunkt company to make weaponry. Later it was used as a tobacco store and then became part of the complex that served the British military government. Thriller writers such as Len Deighton place — probably correctly — the Cold War headquarters of British military intelligence in the offices bordering the stadium.

Some of the Hitler-era statues still stand, such as Breker's "Decathlete" as peeling monuments to Aryan hero worship, but the stadium is in poor condition. The masonry from the supposed Thousand Year Reich has become soft and crumbly. The 100-yard-long tunnel from the changing room to the arena is covered with mould. Steel props are holding up the outer walls and water is leaking everywhere. The VIP platform is shored up with temporary building work and something more stable will have to replace it, engineers say.

The plan of the German Football Federation is that either the opening game or the

final of the 2006 World Cup should be played in the stadium. When the German Football League championship final was played in Berlin recently it became clear how much work was needed to bring it up to standard.

The problem is money. Neither the German Government nor the Berlin Senate has enough to finance the reconstruction. Berlin is supposed to decide by next Monday whether to buy the stadium and its surrounding area from the Government (which took it over when British troops withdrew from Berlin).

Central to Berlin's financial arithmetic is how much Bonn is willing to pay. Eberhard

Diepgen, the Mayor of Berlin, is in favour of building a large glass or plastic roof over the stadium and revamping the interior. That would cost about DM660 million (about £230 million).

An alternative, favoured by senior German sporting officials, is that a new stadium is constructed on the so-called May Field — where British officers used to play polo until recently — next to the old stadium. Building from scratch would cost about DM400 million. According to these calculations, the Olympic Stadium would become a sports museum. But extra funds would still be needed to keep it standing.

Another option is the so-called "Wembley Stadium" model, in which the outer walls would be retained, while the rest would be rebuilt. That, too, would be very expensive.

The dilemma of those favouring a facelift over the bulldozer is that they might end up looking like defenders of Hitler's monumental creation. The stretch of the Nazi era, 63 years after the Games, still hangs around the terraces. It has not been helped by Berlin's unsuccessful bid to stage the 2000 Olympics — which prompted a revival of Leni Riefenstahl's film footage of 1936 — and by a quiet glorification of the sporting achievements of the Hitler time.

A plaque has been set up in the stadium honouring Carl Diem, the chief organiser of the 1936 Games. As Berlin collapsed in April 1945, Diem put together a Hitler Youth Division which tried and failed to win back the stadium from Soviet soldiers. About 2,000 teenagers died in the attempt. The plaque does not mention that.



The flame being carried into the stadium in 1936



Spectators give the Nazi salute as the US team parades at the Berlin Olympics, intended by Hitler to demonstrate Aryan supremacy

Intemperate outburst lands Germany's Chancellor in the mire

BY ROGER BOYES

HELMUT KOHL, for the first time in more than 14 years of ruling Germany, has taken public issue with a report about him in a German news magazine, demanding the right of reply.

Two weeks ago *Stern* magazine carried a cover story on the rapidly softening contours of the euro in which it claimed that Herr Kohl — in a closed meeting with parlia-

mentarians — described the grassroots of his Christian Democratic Party as "clever shits".

"This claim is false," said a letter from the Chancellor, which the magazine published. "I did not criticise the grassroots of the Christian Democratic Union." Rather, he was sympathising with deputies who face criticism about the Bonn crisis from local constituencies on returning home at weekends. In that context, the

Chancellor concedes, he said: "I read many clever-shit (*Klugschisser*) newspapers which claim to know everything."

Stern, having printed the letter, refuses to let the matter rest. Today it carries a full transcript of Herr Kohl's words to his deputies. "I read many clever-shit newspapers which claim to know everything. And I know there is a great deal of unease. I say quite plainly, I know how it is: you go back on

Fridays and attend the constituency association meeting, and they are all sitting there ... and they say, what are you up to, and to stay in the blunt idiom of the Palatinate, they say — 'What kind of shit are you actually doing in Bonn?'"

The language has upset local Christian Democrats. The backbone of the party's support is still in the churchgoing population of small towns and villages. Other chancellors, notably but not exclu-

sively Willy Brandt, were capable of extravagant oaths but only in private. The Chancellor, in trying to make amends, has sunk deeper in the mire.

Perhaps because of his crushing schedule recently — an unsatisfactory Franco-German summit followed by a difficult Amsterdam summit, crisis sessions in Bonn, the Denver and New York summits — Herr Kohl has been very irritated. Usually such outbursts

are kept within a closed circle. But on the fringes of the Amsterdam summit, for example, he fired loose verbal cannons at Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian leader, in effect accusing him of undermining Bonn's struggle to start up the euro.

That attack has played into the hands of Herr Stoiber, who shot back yesterday in an interview with the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, saying he was not afraid

of an open confrontation with the Chancellor.

□ Untimely gift: Herr Kohl plans to return a Rolex watch he was given as one of the world leaders at the "G8" summit in Denver last week. Tony Blair turned down his watch, and President Clinton will donate his to an exhibition of presidential gifts. President Clinton and his counterparts from Russia, Japan, Canada, accepted theirs. (Reuters, AFP)

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Colony's police send 'racism' plea to Queen

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

EIGHT Hong Kong Chinese police officers with full British passports have petitioned the Queen to allow them to retire on full pension, like their white colleagues, before the handover to China.

They told *The Times* last night that although they had been warned officially that "desertion" — an imprisonable offence — if they fail to report for duty on July 1, they will refuse to serve "the communist government".

In the petition to the Queen on June 16, the eight, two of whom are second generation policemen and women, who have an average length of service of 20 years, wrote: "We have been awarded Long Service Colonial Police Medals for our long and dedicated service to the Crown."

"We do not want to switch our loyalty and cannot serve the Police Force of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of Communist China. Loyalty is a personal essence which has frequently been neglected or overlooked in modern times."

The officers, who have also personally petitioned the Governor in Hong Kong and the Foreign Office, contend that it is unjust that about 250 of their white colleagues, whose only



difference is that they were recruited in Britain, have been allowed to retire before the handover with full pensions and compensation awards ranging up to £100,000.

They all took their oaths and underwent police training in Hong Kong. The eight contend that none of the 2,000-member Local Inspectors' Association was told of the offer, which was made secretly to the white officers, and that when the local officers, who have British passports, learnt of the deal and protested, they were told in a judicial review that they should have applied by 1993.

Chik Ki-wai, a spokesman for the group, said last night: "We didn't even know about this deal until 1995. How could we protest?"

Mr Chik has been a frequent visitor last year and this to London, where he has seen officials in the Foreign Office and, before the election, Lab-

our Party frontbench spokesmen on Hong Kong. In a letter to his group, on March 10, Jeremy Hanley, then the Minister of State with responsibility for Hong Kong, said that if the officers were permitted to resign with full pensions, "the British Government would be placed under great pressure to provide the same benefit to all Hong Kong civil servants who hold British passports".

That amounts to at least 50,000 civil servants in all branches, including hundreds of police, who were given their passports in 1991 because they were in "sensitive positions". In 1995 when the inspectors' association learnt of the secret arrangement for their white colleagues, they resolved unanimously that the matter was unfair and should be protested against. Since then, the association has decided not to bring action as a group, but to support any individuals who demand equal treatment from London.

Mr Chik said he was sympathetic to government fears that if hundreds of officers resigned before the handover, Hong Kong would be destabilised. "But this has been racist legislation," he said.

The eight say they were thrown into "terror" after their petition to resign with immediate pensions was sent to Chris Patten, the Governor, on June 12.

John Tsang, his private secretary, told Mr Chik: "Don't worry. Chief Executive C.H. Tung has the same authority as the Governor. We will pass your application to him."

Mr Chik wrote back: "We are astonished... and have been put into great fear and anxiety about political persecution by Communist China."

Last night two of them wrote as Mr Chik said: "We police are the only ones in Hong Kong who swear an oath to the Queen. We believe she will help us."



Removal men pack belongings yesterday from Hong Kong's Government House, home of Chris Patten

Lavender Patten, page 21
Books, page 40

Gurkha pipers join musicians of the Scots Guards for the farewell ceremony

Lament to the end of empire

FROM REUTERS
IN HONG KONG

AS A lone piper launched into a haunting lament, the traditional British stiff upper lip, guardian of emotion, began to tremble.

But then, all reserve restored in the dying days of empire, the Britons rose as one to sing *God Save the Queen* in a land where the Chinese will soon be masters of their destiny again.

About 30,000 people packed

into a Hong Kong stadium to say farewell yesterday to an empire that once boasted 400 million subjects around the world.

They came to hear the massed bands of the British armed forces herald the end of a century and a half of colonial rule here. Pipers from the Scottish Highlands, Gurkhas from Nepal, Scots Guards fresh from duty outside Buckingham Palace — all were there to stir British patriotism. Pinstripe suit jack-

ets were removed in the humidity, but gentlemen kept their ties on.

Expatriates far from England's green and pleasant land waved Union Jacks as the massed bands, striking a triumphant note from the past, launched into "Rule Britannia". Britannia rules the waves, Britons never, never shall be slaves. Then they joined hands for a rendition of *Auld Lang Syne* as a polite but bemused Chinese looked on.

Britain caves in on council ceremony

FROM DAVID WAITS IN HONG KONG

BRITAIN has caved in and agreed to attend the swearing-in of the new Provisional Legislative Council (LegCo) for Hong Kong when its members take office soon after the official handover ceremony next week.

This important concession to China was made despite Britain's having taken a tough stand against a body it regards as illegal. The Foreign Office conceded last night that Francis Cornish, the Consul-General, and Hugh Davies, the senior representative to the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group, will attend the swearing-in. It is expected to take place minutes after the inauguration of Tung Chee-hwa, the new Chief Executive, Tony Blair and Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, will leave immediately after that and boycott the later ceremony, the only two big powers to do so.

The Foreign Office took the decision after it became clear that Britain would be isolated in its defiance. The United States had announced earlier that it would be represented at consular level when the members of the legislature are sworn in. Until yesterday Washington had stood firm with Britain in declining the invitation. But both saw their position eroding as other countries, notably Australia, declined to follow suit.

The State Department justified its decision last night saying that its consul, Richard Boucher, would have to work with the new government.

"Let's face it. The State Department made a mistake," Allen Lee, leader of the Liberal Party who is sympathetic to Beijing, said. "They thought other countries would follow them and they didn't."

The agreement to send representatives will be the second climbdown this week, after London's yielding to Chinese pressure in allowing more than 500 troops to arrive before the official handover.

The Chinese said they would establish the Provisional Legislative Council after rejecting plans by Chris Patten, the Governor, for a "through train" which would have provided for a body that

spanned the transition to the new Special Administrative Region government. Britain does not recognise this body, which will start approving 13 new laws for the territory three hours after the handover ceremonies have been concluded with the Prince of Wales and Mr Patten sailing out of Hong Kong harbour on board *Britannia*.

What happens immediately after that remains the subject of speculation here: whether the Chinese Navy will escort *Britannia* off the premises or whether her mooring will be occupied by a Chinese naval vessel; either way an exclusion zone will be set up in the harbour so that Chinese VIPs can travel across the harbour to the Hong Kong Conference Centre where the handover will be held without fear of being seen by protesters.

Among the laws to be promulgated are a new Public Order Act that will require seven days' notice of a demonstration to the Commissioner of Police. The legislation is not dissimilar to the original colonial law rescinded by Mr Patten. If the police chief chooses to deny the application, the organisers must be given notice two days before the planned event and they must be given an explanation. A secondary, faster, provision allows for a demonstration at three days' notice which must have a response from the police on the day after the application.

The membership of the new legislature has been selected by a body of 400 people hand-picked by the Chinese. Ten of these legislators lost their seats in the democratic elections in 1995. The Chinese have promised that new elections will be held a year after the provisional body takes office. As the system of voting is expected to change, it is also expected that the 19 opposition Democrats now in the council will be reduced to 13.

Designer flags: Xiao Hong, the Chinese professor who designed Hong Kong's post-colonial flag has been treated in hospital for fatigue after attending too many handover parties, the Xinhua news agency said. (Reuters)

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London to challenge 'dog's dinner' treaty

A WEEK after the European Union produced its Treaty of Amsterdam, Britain is claiming that the text has inserted conditions on frontiers and police work that were demanded by Spain but not approved by EU leaders at their summit.

Britain's challenge, to be made by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, at a meeting in Luxembourg today, is one of several complaints about items that slipped into the treaty apparently as a result of the confusion in the hectic final session in Amsterdam last week.

In the aftermath of a negotiation that ended in acrimony, Germany and several other states are unhappy that the treaty grants the European Parliament potential veto powers over legislation on frontiers and other areas despite lack of agreement under the leaders.

In the most glaring case of sleight of hand, President Chirac managed to introduce a treaty guarantee keeping Strasbourg as the seat of the Parliament, although officials



The Amsterdam treaty text allegedly contains conditions not agreed at the summit, writes Charles Bremner in Brussels.

at the summit do not recall the issue being discussed. "Chirac must have mumbled something and no-one objected," a senior Belgian official said.

Politicians across Europe have denounced the new treaty as a muddle that does nothing to prepare the EU for its cardinal goal of enlargement to include the former communist states of East and Central Europe.

The complaint of Britain and Ireland focuses on the special arrangement which exempts them from taking part in the removal of all frontier controls on the EU's internal borders.

Tony Blair had fought for an "opt-in", which will enable Britain, if it wants, to take part in police co-operation and other aspects of the new

border machinery. The bulk of this comes under the old "Schengen accords", complex machinery for frontier management among the 13 other states, which lay outside EU law.

In a move strongly questioned by legal experts, the "Maastricht II" treaty incorporates as EU law the 2,000 pages of Schengen and says Britain may join in but only with the unanimous approval of other states.

This condition, which creates a potential veto, was requested by Spain, with an eye to its dispute with Britain over Gibraltar and the application of EU law to the territory. "We don't know how this got in, but we're going to make sure it's reversed," a British official said yesterday. Dutch officials said the con-

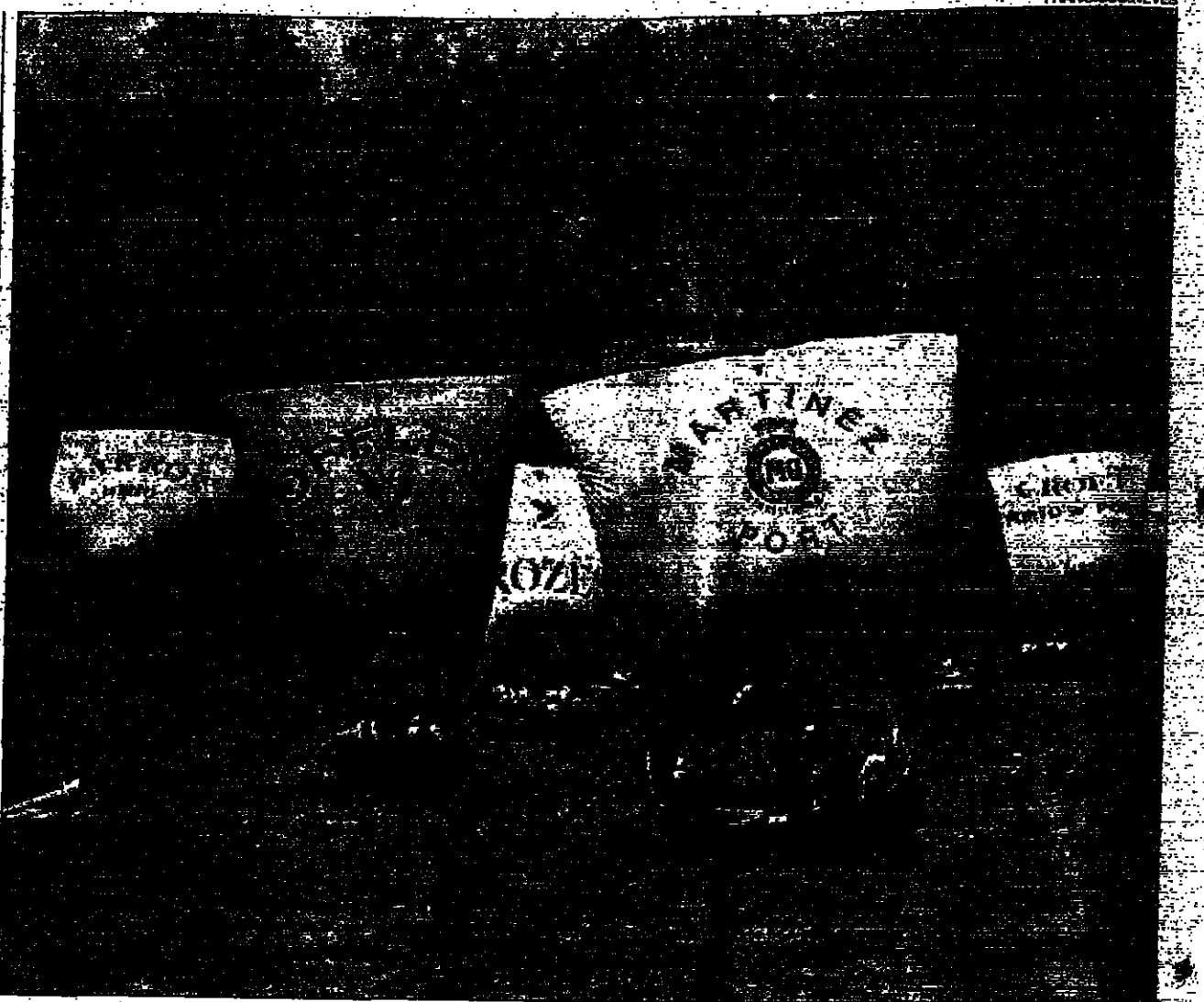
fusion over the 142-page treaty was inevitable, given the hectic end-game at Amsterdam. Their text, which an EU ambassador called a "dog's dinner", was the best they could do with their notes and tapes of the final session, they said.

The Dutch are working with officials from the other states to "sort out the loose ends" and prepare a final text in the 11 languages for signature by EU leaders in Amsterdam this autumn, they said.

They said nobody had formally challenged the French-inspired clause on Strasbourg, which turns into treaty language a declaration by EU leaders at an Edinburgh EU summit in December 1992.

That sought to put an end to the quarrel in which a minority of the Parliament wants to halt the expensive and time-consuming monthly shuttle to Strasbourg from Brussels, where the Parliament has a lavish new headquarters and conducts its committees and short sessions.

Leading article, page 23



Traditional Portuguese rabelo boats, which once transported cargoes of port downriver, compete in their annual regatta on the Douro River. The event celebrates the feast of São João, the patron of Oporto.

Jewish victims accuse Britain over lost funds

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN TEL AVIV

BRITAIN yesterday joined the growing list of countries accused of mismanaging the assets of Jewish victims of the Holocaust and of placing barriers in the way of heirs trying to recover possessions lost more than 50 years ago.

The accusations, first made in the 1950s and since dormant, were revived in an expose published by the Tel Aviv business daily *Globe*, the paper which in 1995 first uncovered the scandal of Swiss banks' abuse of the deposits of Holocaust victims.

Last night John Leopold, a 50-year-old Israeli research physicist — whose parents, both Holocaust survivors who died nearly penniless in the Jewish state after failing to recover "a substantial sum" lodged in a British clearing bank by his Romanian Jewish grandfather — told *The Times* why he had approached *Globe*. "I felt that with other countries now trying to make amends, Britain should try and do the same, at least from a moral point of view. It is not on a par with the Swiss case, but it is an ugly tale from the war that should be cleared up. There is a bad stink about it."

Although exact figures are impossible to come by, the *Globe* journalist Itamar Levin claimed that "tens of millions" of pounds at current values were involved. He said the true sum, and that proportion of it belonging to Jews, could be discovered only by a detailed investigation of about

6,000 files on cases of assets seized by the Custodian of Enemy Property set up in London in 1939 under the Board of Trade.

The allegedly misappropriated cash and possessions belong primarily to Jews living in Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary, who were unable after the war to reclaim the money left or saved in Britain.

The Foreign Office said last night it was investigating the allegations. *Globe* said that it was systematic British policy to use property confiscated from Holocaust victims to compensate British citizens who granted credit before the war to countries that later became Nazi Germany's allies. It also charged that survivors, who after "years of struggle" succeeded in getting back their assets, received them only at nominal value.

The Holocaust Educational Trust, which has led the campaign over Swiss gold, said thousands of Holocaust victims had their assets seized by the Government and that producing documentation to reclaim them after the war was often impossible. It added that about 30 per cent of all claims were rejected and less than £1 million in total was paid out.

Mr Levin said: "The terrible thing about this case is that the country involved is Britain, the one place where Jews looked for fair treatment only to find their assets often stolen. I am sorry, there is no other word for it."

Spain eases Nato ban over Gibraltar

BY GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SPAIN is preparing to lift longstanding military restrictions imposed on all Nato members operating warships and combat aircraft in and out of Gibraltar.

British and other Nato warships docking in Gibraltar are prohibited from then entering Spanish ports. Spain also refuses to take part in Nato naval exercises if they involve Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft operating out of Gibraltar.

Yesterday Eduardo Serra, the Spanish Defence Minister, told a parliamentary committee in Madrid that these restrictions would be lifted. A third restriction, however, under which Nato aircraft flying to Gibraltar are banned from using Spanish airspace, seems likely to remain in place, at least for the foreseeable future.

The concessions, removing some of the anomalies that have prevented Nato members from enjoying equal military rights within the alliance's borders, will help to ease Spain's entry into the integrated structure for the first time since it joined the organisation in 1981.

Spain has agreed to join Nato's integrated military set-up, provided the alliance's

command structure is reorganised. Under the new look Nato, Spain will be given a substantial sub-regional command headquarters, to be based in Madrid. At present there are no Nato command headquarters in Spain.

The announcement that Spain is prepared to offer concessions over Gibraltar underlines the high stakes that are being played by individual Nato members to guarantee their influential status in the new command structure.

However, Señor Serra made it clear that the concessions did not imply that the Spanish Government was softening Spain's claim to sovereignty over Gibraltar, which it handed over to Britain under the terms of the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht. He also said there would be no change in limits imposed on civilians.

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Koreans agree to fresh peace talks

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN
IN TOKYO

previous interviews White-water investigators had said explicitly they were not interested in the President's personal life. Now, he said, "I was left with the impression they wanted to show he was a womaniser ... All they wanted to talk about was women."

Mr Perry said investigators asked him the most intimate details of Mr Clinton's life, including whether he had ever seen him perform a sexual act. Mr Perry told them: "The answer is no."

Mr Perry did tell investigators that he and other troopers either took Mr Clinton to, or provided vehicles to transport him to, clandestine meetings with seven or eight of the women on the prosecutors' list at times when Mrs Clinton was away or asleep, the report said. Mr Perry and three other members of the Governor's security staff made similar allegations in articles published four years ago.

Another trooper, Ronald Anderson, said he refused to answer the questions about personal relationships Mr. Clinton may have had with women. He was reported to have told prosecutors: "If he's done something illegal, I will tell you. But I'm not going to answer a question about women he knew because I just don't feel it's anybody's business."



South Korean soldiers, still technically at war, check the Demilitarised Zone fence

The talks were proposed by President Clinton and President Kim Young Sam of South Korea last year. The North demanded large-scale food aid and an easing of US trade sanctions to take part.

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Lavender and Chris Patten: "I am a listening post. If he wants to talk, I listen. I certainly will give advice. My main approach has been that he shouldn't worry about me. I can cope with most things; I'm quite tough"

'I am here to hold his hand'

Lavender Patten, 52 and enviably lean, sits in the chintz-formality of a Government House from which every trace of the Patten family has been scooped up by packers. The 24-hour roar of central Hong Kong is hushed by double-glazing and there are hotel-style flower arrangements. The staff in starched jackets with red tabs on their collars glide in with tea, and hover, perfectly, just out of earshot.

Soon they will be working for Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive, whose necromancer has warned him that Government House has bad *feng shui*. Mr Tung will stay in his own much enlarged flat in a chic part of town and may turn Government House into a museum to hold the presents every Chinese province has sent to mark the handover. Starting on Tuesday, it will be the opposite of Patten-cosy.

"Upstairs is a mess," says Mrs Patten. "Everything is half in and half out of cases." Then she says, worried: "The staff are wonderful. I can't imagine what their lives are going to be like now." Well, they certainly won't be wearing the colonial white with the red tabs.

Like most of us, Mrs Patten is two people. There is Lavender, an attractive wife and mother who is still very much in love with Chris, her second husband (who calls her "my best friend") and who is devoted to her three daughters, Alice, 17, Laura, 22, and Kate, 24. After five years away from London she is now faced with finding a job and doing up the newly bought Victorian semi in Barnes that, from next week, will become a rather more comfortable family home than the grandiose hulk of Government House.

Then there is Mrs Chris Patten, wife of

After the hectic role as wife of the last Governor of Hong Kong, Lavender Patten is looking forward to being her own person again. Interview by Jonathan Mirsky

Governor Patten. "The Governor," her friends sometimes call her to her face, although unlike some of her predecessors no one could be less governor. She says she suspected what it would be like to be the Government House hostess, but didn't know what was coming: the constant glare of the spotlight, little privacy, snubs from visiting Beijing bigwigs, who shun Mr Patten, and insults from the Chinese press, which has called him "the whore" and "the triple violator".

Aren't the snubs and the insults wounding? "Sometimes it made me angry. It all seemed so juvenile. I didn't take it personally. It's as if they were making it up for some reason. In Britain people can be unpleasant at a meeting, but they don't refuse to meet you. People say it's Chris who's been confrontational. But he's polite and restrained. I'd have been much angrier. It's hard to resist."

What she minds a lot in Hong Kong is "hearing what people say behind your back and then you have to meet for dinner. That's much more difficult. In Britain you just don't meet people like that at dinner."

Has the official hostility from China infected her encounters with local people? "No, not at all. Lots of people have apologised. 'So sorry these things have been said.' The public has been incredibly welcoming and friendly. There's only a small minority who appeared not to like us."

In England, the public animosity from political opponents could be far more direct? "Yup, yup, very definitely. That could be quite unpleasant." She observes, however, that in Britain she was rarely the centre of attention. "I just trotted around gently in Bath. The first time I was in the spotlight was when he lost." One suddenly recalls the stricken faces of the Pattens on television on the night of the 1992 Tory victory in which campaign director Chris Patten was trounced in his own constituency. Could she face another campaign? She looks strained. "Well, I had a pretty bad experience the last time. One puts these things behind one." This sounds much more like a than her husband's answer to the same question.

She has liked Hong Kong, especially the new friends, Chinese and expatriate. "You won't believe it, but I didn't know a single soul here before I came. It's rather wonderful that in the second half of one's life, one can make good friends." But it was also a strain. "I had little idea

what life would be like. I was faced with an enormous house with an enormous staff, an enormous range of duties. It took several months just making decisions about patronage. It's a very busy role. We had little time to ourselves and we have a young daughter who I feel I haven't been able to give as much time to as I would have liked. And then there was being away from our other daughters, on the other side of the world."

hostess in Government House. She is the patron of several organisations. Hong Kong itself? "It's extraordinary. Everyone is on the move all the time, active, hard-working and out and about, enjoying themselves. But it's very tiring. You've got to be on top form."

Her self-discipline verges on self-sacrifice. So determined is she to support her husband that she rarely, if ever, reveals to him her own worries. "I am there to hold his hand and as a listening post. If he wants to talk, I listen. I certainly will give advice. We discuss scenarios — if this happens, then what. My main approach has been he shouldn't worry about me. I can cope with most things; I'm quite tough."

I wonder if this insistence on not worrying her husband arises from her own childhood. Her father was killed in the war, her mother married again; the stepfather paid little attention to Lavender, and then her mother was killed in a car crash. As a child, Lavender moved around a lot. "You may be right. One doesn't want to make a fuss." But soon she says that when she's down, her husband "is very good at treats and good at giving hugs."

On Monday night, after national flags have come down and gone up, the Pattens sail away in the *Britannia* with the Prince of Wales. So what's next for Lavender Patten? "I would like to be my own person again. I'd like to do a job of work." She specialised in juvenile law, but may not go back to it. "I was very junior when I left



The Pattens faced snubs and insults

Listen, why don't you just e-mail me with it?

A report by (Excuse me for just a second will you — OK, I'm back) Gallup and the California-based Institute for the Future says (Sorry, let me just get rid of this flashing message on my computer screen... right, where were we?) that office workers are so deluged with e-mail and other communication that they barely have the time each day to get through (Sorry about that noise, it's a fax coming through) their workload.

The average middle-management executive sends or receives 178 messages or documents each day. A secretary's tally of e-mail, faxes, voice mail, sticky notes and pager messages tops 190 a day.

Nancy Ozawa, director of the Institute for the Future, believes that "we have passed the point where communications tools are aiding efficiency. The day is coming," she

A survey says that office workers are overwhelmed with information. Joe Joseph puts electronic mail in perspective

adds blithely, interrupting us for the 68th time this morning, "when people will lie down in the road and say 'I cannot do this any more.'"

But does the Institute for the Future know the price of every e-mail, and the value of none? If we had to handle 200 messages daily, all of them dealing with brain-clenching questions about new accounting procedures in the Denver subsidiary, then we might well be feeling overwhelmed.

But, for most people, e-mail is just the lazy man's trip to the coffee machine, which is why an average worker's e-mail printout might read something like this:

— Morning, Phil. Get a result last night? Nigel
— What, she did that before

the waiter had even brought the starters? Nigel

— Anyone who has not yet paid their contribution to the lottery syndicate will NOT, repeat NOT, be included in any winnings. Gerry

— How exactly do you mean with the cocktail stirrer??? Nigel

— If that isn't a signal, I don't know what is. She sounds randier than her sister. Nigel

— Yes, that does include you, Phil. It's just not fair if, say, we win £12 million and you expect a share without even putting in your 50p. Gerry

'She sounds randier than her sister'

— Phil, your wife called. Sally

— Do you have anything to put on the agenda for Monday's budget meeting, Phil? (Are you still available for cricket on Saturday?) Mike

— She didn't say what it was about. Sally

— Thanks for last night, Phil. I really, really enjoyed myself...

— No, I think that comes in Wednesday's European budget meeting. Mike

— I forgot: do you still have the team pads in your boot? Mike

— No, if I lent you the 50p it

comes to the same thing. Gerry

— But why didn't you take the cricket bag out of the boot first, you plonker? How long do they reckon it will take to fix the gearbox? Mike

— No, I didn't tell her anything about your whereabouts last night. Sally

— Sorry about that. I had to take a call from some bloke in Korea. So do you think you'll see Mandy again, or what? Nigel

— Tonight? You are an energetic little boy, aren't you! Amanda

— Yes, but what if they don't manage to fix the gearbox by Friday? Mike

— What's all this about you and Amanda? George

— OK, that sounds like a

reasonable Plan B. What's the garage's name? Mike

— Nobody! It's general knowledge. George

— Of course I haven't told anyone. What do you take me for? Nigel

— What the hell have you been saying, Mr Tannoy-mouth? Amanda

— Your wife called again. I'm sick of her thinking I don't pass on the messages to you. Sally

— How else would anyone have known about the mango sorbet? Amanda

— I'm sorry I mentioned it. Let's forget it. George

— And the cocktail stirrer??? Amanda

— My sister warned me about you. Amanda

— Anything cooking? Nigel

— A cheque for 50p, are you bonkers? Gerry

— Get lost! Amanda

— Oh, really? Nigel

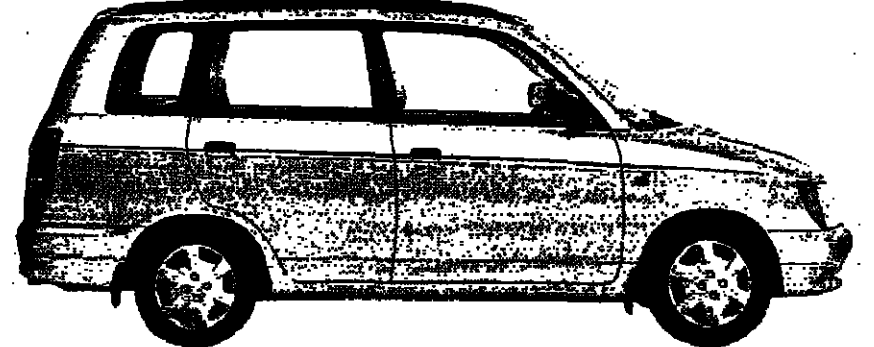
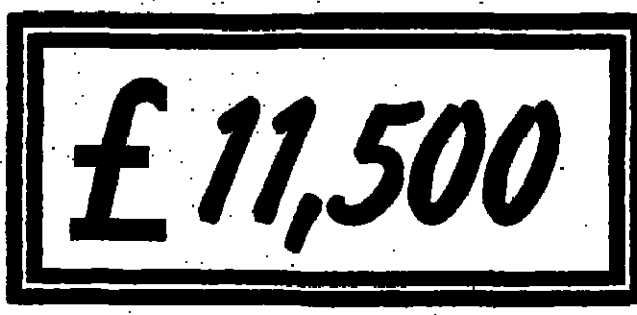


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It's time for trade to do without aid

Clare Short needn't snub British industry says Magnus Linklater

A young man in Zambia on the verge of starvation needs working capital to start a cycle repair business. He needs a loan on reasonable terms, some management advice, and a helping hand to get things going. Armed with that, he can transform a destitute family into a productive unit, contributing to the economy of his country, instead of draining its resources.

Simple, really. It's called sustainable development, and it is extraordinarily difficult to achieve. Bedevilled by politics, war, bureaucracy and vested interests, overseas aid has struggled to achieve that ideal with remarkable lack of success. Small agencies and charities do their best. Governments cannot seem to get it right.

Now Clare Short, Secretary for International Development, has indicated that she wants to change the entire basis of Britain's overseas aid policy. In what is seen as one of the most radical steps this Government has taken, she intends to abolish the "aid-with-strings" approach adopted under previous administrations and direct the money where it is most needed and most effective.

Instead of insisting that aid is conditional on sales of British products, services and expertise, each country's needs will be judged on their merits, irrespective of the benefits for British jobs. Africa is likely to benefit, while the better-off economies of the Far East will lose out.

"Good on her," was the comment from one veteran aid expert I spoke to. "If the idea is to exclude all countries above a certain economic threshold, that's excellent, radical — and probably unworkable. But she should try."

The tangled story of aid-with-strings goes back to a previous woman minister in a Labour Government. In 1978 Judith Hart persuaded James Callaghan to push overseas aid up to its highest level — 0.52 per cent of GNP. She proposed that, in return, British business should be given the inside track on trade with recipient countries. That was taken to extremes by Margaret Thatcher, who regarded aid as a valuable weapon in "baiting for Britain" abroad.

Secret deals were offered to big British companies — cementation in Oman, Westland Helicopters in India — as part of an aid package. It became almost axiomatic that any country accepting British aid found itself buying Land Rovers or installing a GEC-Marconi communications system. Sometimes it became even murkier, when arms deals were illegally involved.

The row that broke over the Pergau dam affair in 1994 suggested that help given to the Malaysian Government to construct a big but questionable dam project had been closely tied to defence sales.

It also raised the rather more urgent question of why millions of pounds were being

poured into the coffers of relatively wealthy countries while others languished in abject poverty. Two decades of trade-related aid has produced a lopsided policy. A report by the Overseas Development Administration last year concluded that it was costly, inefficient, and failed to give value for money.

At the same time, the bargain struck with Mrs (now Dame Judith) Hart has been brusquely dumped: aid has slumped to 0.27 per cent of GNP, and public confidence in the system has been steadily undermined.

So reform is overdue. But Clare Short faces an uphill struggle. First of all, she controls only half of Britain's £2 billion overseas aid budget. The rest is channelled through Brussels, which is notoriously cumbersome and bureaucratic. But even when it comes to the remaining half of British aid, there are headaches. Should Ms Short ignore the politics of the recipient countries? Should she give to dictatorships and democracies alike, regardless of the risk that corrupt regimes will simply siphon off the money for themselves? Should she ignore the crying need of a small island community simply because the country it belongs to is relatively wealthy? And how do you help the most desperate people of all, trapped in a country racked by civil war like Sudan or Rwanda?

The biggest obstacle, however, may lie at home. Can she ignore the outcry from British companies who will argue that jobs will be lost and trade lost to competitors if she changes track? The answer is that she should do just that.

Those companies will discover, like their Japanese counterparts, that deals will be done irrespective of aid, and that contracts will not be lost if the services are needed. But at the same time, Ms Short must not simply cut British industry out of overseas projects. The future of development depends on investment from the private sector as much as it does on Government aid. The Third World needs British goods, technology, experience, management techniques, and long-term assistance. It is more efficient and effective than anything a non-governmental organisation can provide.

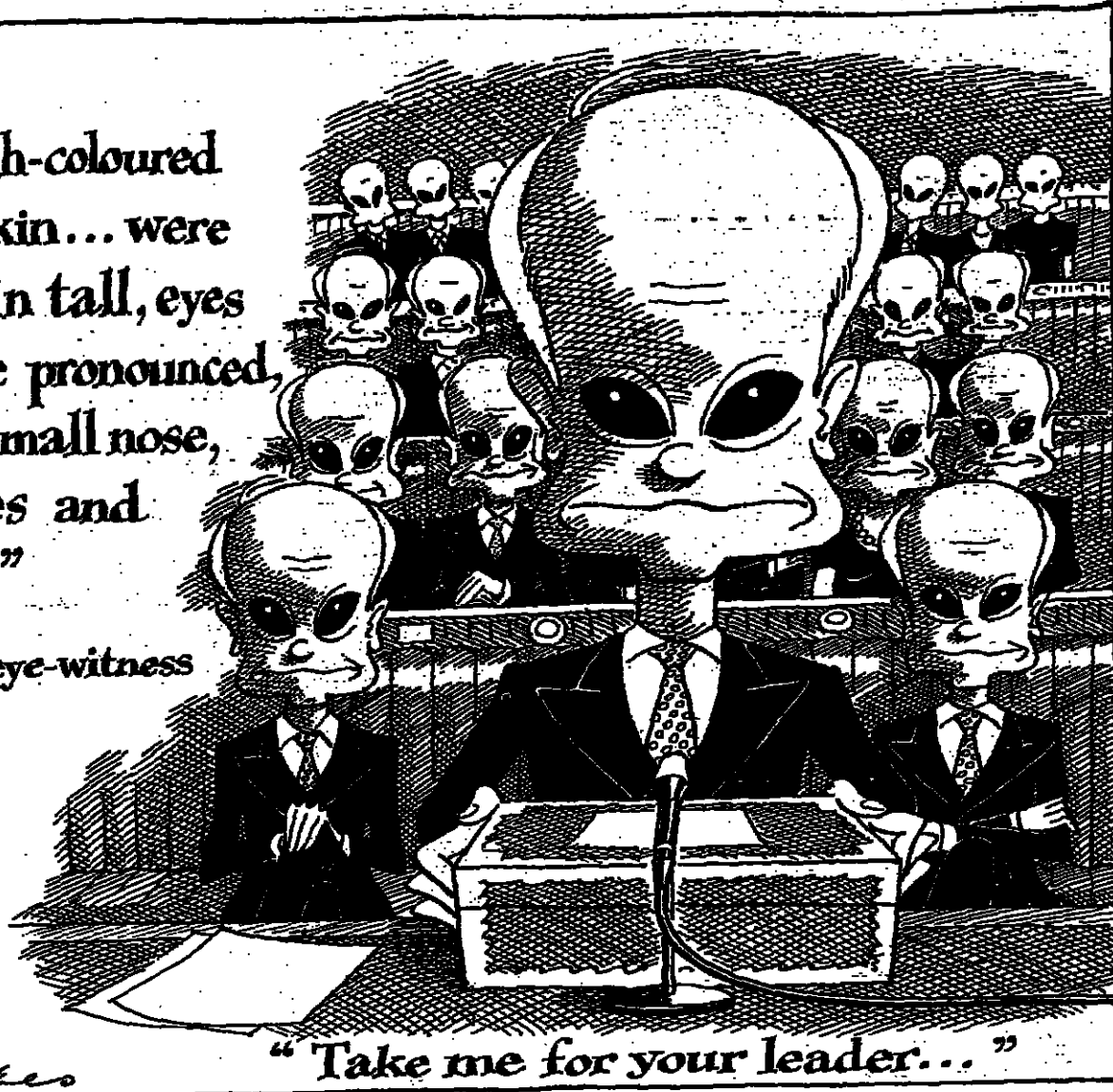
It should, however, be sought and provided openly, with Parliament fully informed at the time rather than having to find out about it later. It should be done on the basis that British firms can provide goods and services that are cheaper and more efficient than their local competitors. And trade deals should not be made a condition of receiving aid.

If Ms Short can meet those objectives, and then perhaps persuade the Treasury to inch that 0.27 per cent back up towards the level it achieved 20 years ago, she will indeed have achieved something truly radical.

"They had ash-coloured faces and skin... were about 5ft 5in tall, eyes a little more pronounced, small ears, small nose, fine features and hairless..."

Roswell aliens eye-witness

26.6.97
Peter Brookes



Nemesis on Wall Street

The 1929 stock market crash doomed Ramsay MacDonald's new Government. Could it happen to Labour again?

Lord Beaverbrook was the greatest newspaper proprietor of his time, and one of the shrewdest political commentators. On April 30, 1929 he commented on the general election campaign in a letter to a Canadian friend. "Ramsay MacDonald is anxious at all costs to appear reasonable and moderate, and his speeches might all be made by Baldwin." The Labour leader's moderation paid off. The poll was on May 31, and Labour was for the first time returned as the largest party, with 288 seats to the Conservatives' 260 and the Liberals' 59. The Liberals under Lloyd George supported Labour, and Ramsay MacDonald formed what was then only the second Labour Government.

Labour's honeymoon was brief. On September 26, 1929, pressure on the pound sterling, which was still convertible into gold, forced the Bank of England to raise the bank rate to 6.5 per cent, an exceptionally high level for the Gold Standard period. As the dividend yield on the New York stock market was only 3 per cent, British investors, who still played an important role on Wall Street, started to sell their American stocks in order to obtain the interest rates available in London. On September 29 the panic started. By November 13, 1929, the index had fallen by 42 per cent. By March 1932, it had fallen by 77 per cent, and was to fall even further in the banking panic of 1933.

On August 20, 1931, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England called on Ramsay MacDonald to tell the Prime Minister that the gold reserves were within a few days of being exhausted; he said that a loan could be negotiated in New York if the Government was prepared to cut expenditure, including unemployment benefits. The Labour Cabinet (but not MacDonald or the Chancellor, Philip Snowden) rejected this proposal. On August 24, Ramsay MacDonald went to Buckingham Palace, resigned as Prime Minister, and advised King George V to call a meeting of the three party leaders.

As a result the National Government of 1931 was formed the next day, with Ramsay MacDonald still as Prime Minister, but with the Conservatives as the dominant party. Britain went off the Gold Standard; Parliament was dissolved; at the general election on October 27, the

bottom in 1933 the dividend yield had risen to more than 9 per cent. This means that the Dow Jones, which peaked last week at 7,800, would have to fall to 4,400 to match the 1929 peak in terms of dividend yield, or to about 1,450 to match the bottom of the market in 1933. No bear market in Wall Street has ever come to an end without the dividend yield reaching 6 per cent. Of course the underlying cycle may have changed its character, but it is worth noting that a 6 per cent dividend yield is the present equivalent of a fall in the Dow Jones index to about 2,250.

Fortunately, there are more moderate ways of estimating the potential downside risk in the Wall Street market. Professor Tim Congdon has published his conclusions in the latest issue of the *Lombard Street Research Monthly*. He believes that "US equity valuations are stretched" and that "the surge in share prices is due to high money growth and associated excess liquidity". He measures the possible fall in terms of the bond-equity yield ratio. In 1929 it was the superior attraction of bonds which pulled money out of Wall Street and caused the crash.

"Investors have a choice between holding their wealth in equities or bonds," Professor Congdon writes. "On average over the last 15 years the 30-year US government bond yield has been between two and a half and three and three quarters times the S&P 500 dividend yield. Until recently the only exception was in the spring and summer of 1987, but that was before the crash of 1987. At its peak in 1987 the bond-equity yield ratio was 3.5 per cent; today it is just over four. If bond yields rise and the yield ratio returns to two and a half to three and three quarters, US share prices could fall by over 30 per cent." That would take the Dow Jones index back down to below 5,500.

There is no doubt that Wall Street is very high. Judged by the dividend yield, it is the highest it has ever been, by a wide margin. Before the fall on Monday, the dividend yield on the S&P 500 index was 1.7 per cent, compared with 3 per cent at the peak in 1929. In terms of dividend yield, it would therefore take a fall of more than 40 per cent in the Dow Jones index to get back to the level immediately before the 1929 crash. By the

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William Rees-Mogg

Perfidious Albion lets Bruton go

Charles Lysaght says London will find Dublin cooler

It now looks inevitable that when the lower house of the Irish parliament (the Dáil) reassembles today after the recent general election, the leader of Fine Gael, John Bruton, will be replaced as Taoiseach by the leader of Fianna Fáil, Bertie Ahern. Britain will thereby lose a Prime Minister uniquely well disposed towards her, and also uniquely conciliatory towards the Unionists of Northern Ireland.

Bruton has been Taoiseach for only two and a half years. He must be counted lucky ever to have held the office. His own political stock was at a low ebb when, at the end of 1994, Albert Reynolds's Fianna Fáil-Labour coalition fell apart. Labour formed a coalition with Fine Gael and Bruton, then in danger of being displaced as leader of Fine Gael, instead found himself elected Taoiseach.

There were apprehensions that this coalition would not work. There was bad blood between Bruton and the Labour leader Dick Spring, dating from Garret FitzGerald's ill-fated coalition Government of the mid-1980s, when Bruton was seen as the combative champion of the Right. In fact, helped by a buoyant economy, all went swimmingly and Bruton abandoned his former combativeness and adopted a statesmanlike demeanour. After the financial scandals that had beset the Fianna Fáil Government of Charles Haughey and Albert Reynolds, it was a relief to have a Taoiseach who was universally regarded as above suspicion.

Bruton inherited the "peace process". Initially he was distrustful of John Hume and the SDLP, who feared that he would be too accommodating to the Unionists. While this rift was rapidly overcome, Sirin Fein was less happy with him than it had been with Mr Reynolds.

Bruton was blamed for agreeing initially to decommissioning of arms as a precondition of the admission of Sinn Féin to negotiations. Later, he found himself in the awkward position of trying to persuade the Major Government to modify this rigid requirement in a vain effort to save the IRA ceasefire.

The collapse of the ceasefire on this issue, the volte-face in Northern Ireland at Drumcree, where a banned march was permitted, and the absence of reform of the RUC, were all blows to Bruton. It meant that he had nothing to show for his more friendly attitude towards Britain and the Unionists, symbolised by his effusive welcome for the Prince of Wales on an Irish visit, and his insistence on honouring the Irish dead of the two World Wars.

In the final weeks before the election on June 7, he returned empty-handed from London after conferring with Tony Blair. The perception that Fianna Fáil would be tougher with the British and more influential in persuading the IRA to restore its ceasefire was also unhelpful to him.

He also ran into difficulties on other fronts. Malcolm Lowry, a minister, had to resign over a tax irregularity, denting Fine Gael's reputation for probity. Then, in Tipperary, Lowry stood as an independent and won; in rural Ireland the failure to pay one's taxes is not regarded as a mortal sin.

In the event, Bruton's party increased its vote, but the large losses suffered by Labour deprived him of the majority necessary to form a new Government. Having acquitted himself well both in office and in the election, he must await the swing of the political pendulum to bring him back to office. His agreement this week with Mr Blair on an independent commission to oversee decommissioning while talks proceed is a useful last legacy.

Meanwhile, Bertie Ahern will have to survive with the support of the small Progressive Democratic Party, most of whom are former members of his own party who departed in protest against the less yielding nationalism and personal style of Haughey. Their presence in government will restrain Fianna Fáil from relaxing into the more republican stance that some of its backwoodsmen would favour. It is fortunate that Ahern can survive without the support of the one Sinn Féin member of the new Dáil and another pro-republican independent. Although, like many in Fianna Fáil, Ahern's family were once in the IRA, his own instincts are moderate.

On Northern Ireland, however, the new Taoiseach sounds less conciliatory than Bruton. Whereas Mr Bruton professed to have equal regard for both communities, Mr Ahern presents himself as the champion of the nationalist population. But hard-headed professionals on the British side appreciate that Fianna Fáil enjoys the advantage of having more influence with Sinn Féin.

Moreover, no settlement that involves a renunciation of the claim in the Irish Constitution to Northern Ireland can be made to stick without the support of Fianna Fáil. The real problem is not Dublin, but the substantial section of the Catholic population in Northern Ireland who are prepared to support Sinn Féin despite its links with the IRA.

P-H-S

The author, a political commentator and barrister, lives in Dublin.

Pratt's problem

THREE of London's grandest gentlemen's clubs are in agonies over what to do with Jonathan Aitken. The former minister remains a member of Pratt's, the Turf and the Beefsteak — clubs which regard themselves with at least as much importance as the Privy Council from which he resigned this week.

When caught in a poke, gentleman's clubs tend to close up as tightly as shy mussels on a cold day. But they have three main options. Do they wait for him to do the right thing and tender his resignation? Do they boot the cad

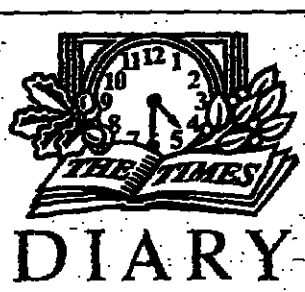
out for his portfolio of ungentlemanly behaviour? Or do they rally round their man?

"The best comparison is when Ludovic Kennedy requested Claus von Bülow be expelled from Brooks's when he was accused of trying to kill his wife," says Anthony Lejeune, the leading historian of London's gentleman's clubs. "Of course von Bülow was then acquitted." Von Bülow stayed at his club, as did John Profumo, the former Minister for War, at Boodle's.

In Pratt's the final decision rests with the Duke of Devonshire, who is by all accounts a lenient man. In the others they will most likely wait for his resignation, then sit on it for a while hoping the furor goes away.

On the plus side for Aitken, should he stay in foreign parts — yesterday the tabloids were considering sending troops to South America and to Germany, to the Schloss belonging to his friend Gloria Thurn und Taxis — he will be able to pay the cheaper subscriptions expected from club members resident overseas.

● Double measures were going down at the Cavalry and Guards Club in Piccadilly yesterday after



the former Northern Ireland Secretary, Lord Mayhew of Twysden, was introduced to the House of Lords. Supporting him were friends from his cavalry days, Lord Elton and Lord Glenarthur. Between the three of them, they represented seven regiments — reckoned to be a new record at Westminster.

Sign here

INDIAN fiction, still riding the crest of *The New Yorker* magazine's devotion of a whole issue to it, has notched up another coup. Andrew Wiley, the literary agent known as The Jackal, has signed up Ardashir Vakil, whose book *Beach Boy* was published by Hamish Hamilton to acclaimed reviews in May. "It's very flattering," says Vakil. "Wiley's office approached me and said they would like me to come over to them. It was an offer I couldn't refuse."

However, there are some who will be less than happy about his rising stardom. Vakil is an English teacher at the Pimlico comprehensive where the pupils include the Home Secretary's son, William Straw. "I love teaching here," says Vakil, "but there is a conflict — something will have to give."

At last...

AFTER 71 long years spent ogling the post, the writer Anthony Powell, 92, was finally made a vice-president of the Society of Genealogists on Tues-



"I must have the one with the matching mine-detector, darling."

day evening. A member of the society since his days at Balliol College, Oxford, Powell joins a venerable line-up of vice-presidents, including Lord Denning and the Duke of Norfolk. Prince Michael of Kent, the society's president, made the award at the society's AGM.

The position carries few responsibilities. "It is entirely an honour, with very light duties," said Anthony Camp, the society's director. "He is the oldest existing member and we thought that making him a vice-president would be a rather nice thing to do."

● DISAPPOINTMENT has set in among Hong Kong's party-set after a promise by Laura Patten, the daughter of the Governor, to keep a "low profile" during the handover celebrations next week. Her demure stand by her father's side will be in stark contrast to her performance in 1992, when she mesmerised the colony by appearing at Patten's swearing-in ceremony clad in a mini-skirt and low-cut T-shirt.

In the frame

IT was a seller's market at The Vine, a bar in north London, on Tuesday evening when some of the world's best-known fashion models, including Helena Christensen, Sophie Dahl and Iris Palmer, exhibited their art and poetry — even though the only person buying was Miss Christen-



Indignant: Iris Palmer

sen. The Danish model bought two of Jade Jagger's butterfly watercolours and an oil painting by Iris Palmer of a nude, whose curves, noted critics, owed more to Rubens than Lowry.

Miss Palmer, who is busy growing her armpit hairs for the photographer Helmut Newton, was defensive of her work. *The Sunday Times*'s art critic, Frank Whitford, had described her painting as "poorly observed, making it difficult to believe that she attended art school". When her fellow model bought her work, priced at a mere £1,950, Miss Palmer said: "It just goes to show that Helena has got far better taste than Frank Whitford."

When I



Forgiving? Devonshire



AMSTERDAM SOUP

Europe's cooks have spoiled the summit's broth

The midnight oil that was burnt at Amsterdam last Wednesday gave out, it emerges, a flickering and unreliable light. Now that the Dutch have published the text, the post-mortem inspection of the Treaty of Amsterdam promises to be as fractious a business as was that most dyspeptic of European summits itself. All, it turns out, is not quite what it seemed.

France has again added to the gaiety of nations. President Chirac returned to Paris from Amsterdam claiming to have secured in perpetuity France's equivalent of the Ashes: treaty confirmation that the seat of the expensively peripatetic European Parliament resides in Strasbourg, 300 miles from Brussels. His boast was greeted with muffled mirth by summit-watchers in Amsterdam and London, not to mention Brussels where European taxpayers have just finished spending £850 million on the Parliament's lavish second home, the aptly nicknamed "Caprice des Dieux". No one else had any recollection of such a deal; surely, it was said, the French had a truly amazing capacity for wishful thinking.

This week, scanning the treaty text, these same seasoned operators have to wear pink faces and accept that M Chirac has the last laugh; France's deal is done, and if no one remembers nodding it through, it must be because by around 3am they were nodding off. The consolation prize for MEPs weary of the constant commuting between Strasbourg and Brussels is that, as a result of a drafting error, the summit also inadvertently extended the Parliament's powers of co-decision, giving it a veto for the first time on decisions unanimously agreed by the European Council.

The British Government, meanwhile, is puce with indignation over another little textual problem. Last week Tony Blair proudly proclaimed that while preserving Britain's border controls intact, he had secured the right to "opt in" at will to approved aspects of the Schengen regime for a frontier-free Europe. Embarrassingly, however, for the Downing Street spokesmen, that is not what the text says.

At Amsterdam, Spain, which was not alone in grumbling about Britain having its cake and eating it too, insisted that other states should have the right to veto such *ad hoc* British participation. Britain claims that

Spain's demand was rejected by other European Union leaders; yet the veto power appears in the Dutch text, the legality of which Robin Cook will today set out to challenge.

If all this occasions a quiet smile by John Major, who in his last parliamentary performance as Leader of the Opposition denounced the Amsterdam negotiation as "botched and incomplete", he should not laugh too openly. Five years ago, the precise nature of what had been agreed at Maastricht was not clear until more than a month after he had triumphantly proclaimed "game, set and match" for Britain; and when the final text did appear, the victory for British negotiation looked a good deal less decisive than he had claimed.

For this diplomatic dog's breakfast it is too easy to blame the harassed Dutch, who have almost certainly made a better job of transcribing the jumble of notes and tapes than most other EU governments would have managed. The more important truth is that the Amsterdam summit was no way to do business. Too much was crammed into the agenda, because too little had been agreed by the time the leaders assembled. Addicts of the hoary metaphors about catching the Eurotrain should take note of the perils of allowing an obsession with time-tables to triumph over political good sense.

It was held that to extend negotiation of this treaty beyond Amsterdam would impose unacceptable delay on the admission to the EU of Central and Eastern European applicants. But undue haste has had the same result, because Amsterdam ended in deadlock on the vital questions of re-weighting national voting power and overhauling the Commission. It would have been better by far to have insisted that, even if it took more summits, leaders must persevere until there was a breakthrough.

This outcome may privately suit Helmut Kohl, whose ardour for EU enlargement has cooled markedly of late; the German Chancellor is increasingly incapable of thinking about anything except monetary union. But it is gloomy news for those with Europe's interests genuinely at heart. This treaty is not only a technical mess but a political betrayal of European democracy. It has hampered the task of enlargement which ought, as Mr Blair himself believes, to be Europe's cardinal objective.

THE GREAT DEBATE

If MPs want their speeches reported, they have to scintillate

The House of Commons has been in limbo since the election. With an interim Leader of the Opposition and a denuded and temporary front bench, the Conservative Party has not had the heart to oppose vigorously. While their leader was being chosen, Tory MPs spent more time arguing with themselves than with the Government. Ministers have been left to make policy more or less unhindered.

Now, in William Hague's words, it is time for a fresh start. The new leader engaged in his first Prime Minister's Question Time yesterday. He drew little blood but will have plenty of time to improve his tactics. The bigger question is whether he and his colleagues will be able to make the House of Commons an important part of the political process in the coming five years or whether, with Labour's huge majority, it will seem little more than marginal.

Newspapers are often accused of paying too little attention to the proceedings of Parliament. It is true that none any longer has a page devoted to parliamentary debate: events in Parliament have to compete with those outside Westminster on their news merit. When debates are scintillating, they are reported at length. But more often, they are not. This is a problem which only MPs and peers themselves can remedy. The more expertise they muster, the better their oratorical skills, the more likely they are to find their speeches reported in newspapers.

But the decline in parliamentary reporting is also a reflection of the fragmentation of politics. As recently as 1956, the Commons had a virtual monopoly on political debate. Broadcasters were not allowed to host

discussions on any subjects that were known to be coming up before Parliament within 14 days. Nor was any Bill allowed to be debated on the air between its laying before Parliament and its Royal Assent. Now there is a plethora of political and current affairs programmes on television and radio. The real political debate takes place in the studios of W12, not the chambers of SW1.

Politicians recognise this. Far more covetable than a slot in a debate is an invitation to appear on the *Today* programme or *Newsnight*. Gordon Brown made all his important policy speeches of the last Parliament outside the House. He reserved for the chamber itself a knockabout banter with Kenneth Clarke which may have amused but rarely enlightened.

If Parliament wants to be more newsworthy, it will have to fight hard, particularly during a period in which there is unlikely to be the drama of the Government losing a vote. Ann Taylor's proposed modernisation of parliamentary procedures should give greater scrutiny powers to select committees and standing committees. If their work becomes more interesting in the process, newspapers will devote more resources to their coverage.

But newspapers are no longer the sole conduit of information to people outside Westminster. *Hansard* and select committee reports are now available free on the Internet. A parliamentary channel is offered on cable TV. Political enthusiasts are better served than ever before. To attract the rest of the public, politicians will have to sharpen their wisdom, wit and ways of communication.

OMNIBUS TIME

When London regulations are a model for the nation

On the heels of the Prime Minister's demand for global action to reduce greenhouse gases, his deputy yesterday announced that his Environment and Transport Department is to carry out a thoroughgoing review of bus deregulation. Despite ambitious plans to revitalise the railways, build cycleways or bring trams gliding back to Britain's streets, the future of pollution reduction through public transport depends on the humble bus. With 3.7 million passenger journeys each day, buses in London still carry far more people than the Underground. They are cheap to operate, can be made to run on cleaner fuels and offer Londoners a service within about five minutes' walk from home and work. And, to the joy of tourists and those agile enough to run after a departing red Routemaster, the venerable open-ended buses, kept alive by enthusiasm and spare-part cannibalism, are still playing the capital's streets, despite the frowning disapproval of Eurocrats.

Londoners are lucky, however. The capital is one of the few cities where bus privatisation was not accompanied by deregulation — a Conservative measure that has, in most

cases, been a disaster. In some cities so many companies are now competing for the profitable routes that, while the high streets are clogged, the outskirts have lost virtually all their services. Flanders and Swann noted, years ago, that these monarchs of the road "like to drive in convoys; we're most gregarious". Now they arrive not in twos or threes but six at a time, none accepting the other's tickets or timetables.

Gavin Strang, the Minister for Transport, yesterday called for more bus lanes, better information, more partnerships between operators and local authorities and more convenient interchanges. He also wants greater stability in the market. Sensibly, he said the Government had no single blueprint: local authorities could decide how buses should be regulated. In some cities, such as Exeter, operators provide a good service; in others, such as Oxford, deregulation has led to mayhem. The important aim, as the department's report suggests, is "Keeping Buses Moving". With imagination and some new technology, these sturdy old workhorses ought to be made clean, safe, swift and frequent: truly an omnibus for all.

Does Britain still need a separate Royal Air Force?

From Field Marshal Lord Carver

Sir, I hope that the Government's strategic defence review will give serious consideration to the arguments put forward in Professor Robert Neild's letter to you (June 20) about the future of the RAF.

Current and likely future developments in the technology of electronics, optics and missiles raise doubts as to whether the sophisticated manned fixed-wing combat aircraft will for much longer be an efficient and cost-effective platform with which to undertake the principal tasks, in both maritime and land/air warfare, which it has performed in this century: that is, reconnaissance, strike and air defence.

Furthermore the existence of a third armed service has introduced aggravating complications to command and control of operations, and the communications on which that depends. There is an abundance of historical examples of that.

These complications have been intensified by the development of all aspects of electronic warfare. They call into question the desirability of retaining a service which is essentially linked to that type of platform.

Yours truly,

CARVER FM,
House of Lords,
June 20.

From Dr Philip Sablin

Sir, I believe Professor Neild's letter to be based on a misconception of the role of manned aircraft.

Although crewless systems, such as missiles, are often favoured by weaker air powers such as Iraq, manned air-

craft remain far more efficient for superior air powers such as Britain and the United States. The dominance they enjoy was amply demonstrated in the Gulf War and over Bosnia, and is unlikely to be overturned in the near future.

Air power (both crewed and crewless) is the one form of military power which can completely ignore the land/sea divide — a flexibility especially important for an island nation like the UK. Splitting it between Army and Navy would create artificial obstacles where none need exist; and would also quite unnecessarily jeopardise the fine traditions on which the RAF now rests.

This would be perilous, given that the real comparative advantage which the UK enjoys in military power lies not in resources or technological capability but in the professionalism, dedication and spirit of its service personnel.

The real need is not to reopen long dead inter-service squabbles, but to build a truly joint-service approach. That will make possible the efficiencies that Professor Neild rightly desires and will allow the necessary integration of power across all the various environments — land, sea, air, space and now cyberspace.

Much progress has already been made along these lines in recent years, and I look forward to contributing further to this process through our academic input at the new Joint Services Command and Staff College.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP SABLIN,
King's College London,
Department of War Studies,
Strand, WC2.

Police discipline

From the Secretary of the Metropolitan Police Inspectors Branch Board

Sir, You briefly reported on June 12 that the Home Secretary has pledged his support to the Metropolitan Police in preventing officers from retiring on ill-health grounds when accused of serious discipline offences.

Retirements on the grounds of "ill health" and "injury awards" are governed by the Police Pension Regulation 1987 and are based on the recommendation of the Force Medical Officer. However his recommendation is only that — a recommendation — and the Police Authority (the Home Secretary in the case of the Metropolitan) "may" grant the officer an ill health or injury pension.

One could forgive the new Home Secretary for not being fully conversant with the regulations; but there are no excuses for senior officers in the Metropolitan Police for not knowing that they already have the necessary authority to prevent the alleged abuse.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN BLOWES,
Secretary, Metropolitan Police Inspectors Branch Board,
Police Federation,
Harold Scott House,
1 Birchfield Street, E14,
June 20.

Minimum sentences

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, What you term the "principle" that the Home Secretary can fix the minimum term served by life sentence prisoners (leading article, June 13) has never been expressly endorsed by Parliament. To a large extent, present procedures derive from a ministerial statement by Sir Leon Brittan when Home Secretary in 1983, rather than from any "compact" between Parliament and people when capital punishment was abolished 18 years earlier.

Since an independent judiciary is a defining feature of a free society, it is rather odd for you to argue that political intervention in sentencing is necessary to sustain public confidence in the criminal justice system. Setting lifers' tariffs reflecting retribution and deterrence is properly a judicial function. But there should be a further right of appeal for both defence and prosecution to guard against excessive severity or leniency.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW,
Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
The Old Trading House,
15 Northburgh Street, EC1.

Ulster talks

From Mr Tom Hewitt

Sir, Sinn Féin may not be irredeemable — the party's electoral mandate shows that they have some popular support. But the men who bear arms are beyond the pale.

Their campaigns of terror and intimidation are not directed in support of "political" objectives, but rather to further their now ingrained appetite for the proceeds of extortion, blackmail, fraud and robbery, which have become their sole *raison d'être*. They will not, therefore, willingly decommission their arms (report and leading article, June 25).

Whatever the political solution in Northern Ireland, they will need to be dealt with by policing, not politicising.

Yours faithfully,
T. W. HEWITT,
57 Albert Road, Epsom, Surrey,
June 25.

New direction for the Conservatives

From Mr Stephen Howd

Sir, Matthew Parris (June 20) asks what is the distinctive role of the Conservative Party now that Labour has apparently accepted the free market and rejected socialism. I would suggest that there is a clear answer to that question: the Conservative Party must stand first and foremost for the preservation of the United Kingdom as an independent sovereign state. This means opposing Labour's proposals to break up the United Kingdom and taking a clear line against any further moves towards European integration. With William Hague as our leader and Michael Howard as our Shadow Foreign Secretary this should now be possible.

In my view we should go further; we should offer the British people a referendum on whether we should remain in the EU or whether we should withdraw from the EU whilst remaining within the single market (the European Economic Area).

This is a perfectly feasible option which already exists and is enjoyed by a number of non-EU states. This is the policy on which we can win back the millions of natural Conservative supporters who either voted for the Referendum Party or stayed at home on May 1.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN HOWD
(Chairman, Hook Branch, Brigg and Goole Conservative Association),
Hook House,
Hook, nr Goole, East Yorkshire,
June 21.

From Sir Anthony Grant

Sir, William Hague is right to emphasise unity and loyalty (report, June 20), two qualities so spectacularly lacking in the last Conservative Parliamentary Party.

As one who served 33 years in Parliament as a Conservative MP (including 18 years on the executive of the 1922 Committee) may I suggest he will best reform the party by setting his face against the "one of us" philosophy. It was this nonsense that

Shot at dawn

From Mr Christopher Langdon

Sir, Your report (June 16) on the 11 wartime spies executed in the Tower of London reminded me of a story recounted by the son of Colonel Frederick George Langham, formerly the senior partner of Langham, Douglas & Co.

Frederick Langham commanded the Fifth (Cinque Ports) Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment from October 21, 1911. In the early stages of the First World War he was stationed at the Tower of London and was responsible in 1914 for the execution of the German spy, Carl Lody.

He selected a spot in the moat but found at the last moment that he was overlooked from a nearby street and a knot of spectators had collected. The place had to be changed and the execution was carried out in a miniature rifle range where no one could see.

He found this a distressing duty. While Lody was in his custody, he developed an admiration for him, considering him to be a brave, loyal and zealous naval officer who found his task as a spy highly distasteful and knew his chances of evading capture were slim.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER LANGDON,
Langham House,
Albert Road,
Hastings, East Sussex,
June 16.

From Mr Michael H. M. Hely

Sir, Before a party to a conflict can use the air to advance its aims by any method, that party must first establish air superiority or (preferably) supremacy. Likewise, success on the ground or at sea is dependent on the control of the air over the battlefield. Without such precondition, all efforts by the other arms are doomed to failure.

The recommendation of the Smuts committee of 1917, cited by Professor Neild, was based, not on a view of the war-winning effects of strategic bombing, but on the appreciation of General Smuts that:

We should not only make every effort to secure air predominance, but secure it on a very large scale, and having secured it... we should make every effort and sacrifice to maintain it for the future. Air supremacy may in the long run become as important a factor in the defence of the Empire as sea superiority.

Without air superiority, the Army and the Royal Navy would not be able to carry out even the limited role the professor allows for manned aircraft, still less the roles for which they are trained and alone capable of discharging.

The winning, and then the maintenance of air superiority can only be achieved by those trained in the art and science of the use and application of air power — that is to say, only by airmen.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

MICHAEL H. M. HELY
(Squadron Leader, RAF (ret'd)),
Helions Chambers,
Pilgrims' Way, Camps Road,
Helions Bumpstead, Suffolk.
helionslaw@aol.com
June 20.

The Forth Bridge as a work of art

From Emeritus Professor Joseph Black, FEng

Sir, Melvyn Bragg, in rightly admiring the Forth Bridge as a work of art ("Real beauty in the eye of the beholder", Arts, June 23), asks whether "it was set up with little or nothing of art in the minds of their makers" and "how many engineers knew a century ago that those leaping spans... were an artefact of splendour and magnificence".

I believe that Sir Benjamin Baker, designer of the bridge, answered those questions almost exactly 100 years ago. According to Michael Baxendale, author of *Patterns of Intention* (Yale University Press, 1985), Baker was responding to William Morris's belief that "there never will be an architecture in iron, every improvement in machinery being uglier and uglier, until they reach the supremest specimen of all ugliness — the Forth Bridge."

Addressing the Edinburgh Literary Institute, Baker responded with a vigorous defence. He doubted whether... Mr Morris had the faintest knowledge of the duties which the great structure had to perform [or could] judge the impression it made in the minds of those who, having the knowledge, could appreciate the directions of the lines of stress and the fitness of the several members to resist the forces.

Probably Mr Morris would judge the beauty of the design from the same standpoint, whether it was for a bridge a mile long or for a silver chimney ornament. It was impossible for any one to pronounce authoritatively on the beauty of an object without knowing its functions. The marble columns of the Parthenon were beautiful where they stood, but if one took one and bored a hole through its axis and used it as a funnel of an Atlantic liner it would, to his mind, cease to be beautiful, but of course Mr Morris might think otherwise.

Baker's final simple statement of faith could have come straight from the great Renaissance engineer/artist Alberti, who said: "The object has been so to arrange the leading lines of the structure as to convey an idea of strength and stability. This, in such a structure, seemed to be at once the truest and highest art."

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH BLACK,
20 Summerhill Road, Bath, Somerset.

Honours equal

From Mr A. C. Record

Sir, The Duke of Wellington (letter, June 21) and a staff sergeant below, I admit, to different worlds. However the Duke's habit of addressing his soldiers as "Sir" still reminded me of my first morning at Mons Officer Cadet School during National Service in 1955.

When my platoon paraded, the sergeant made a few things clear. We called him "Staff", he called us "Sir". He then added: "The only difference is — you mean it."

Yours humbly still aware of my place,
TONY RECORD,
4 Sambourne Court,
Sea Walls Road, Bristol,
June 21.

Gone with the wind

From Mr David Himsworth

Sir, Your feature (June 16) and letters (June 21) on the shipping forecast reminded me of a life-changing moment.

As a young boy I wanted to go to sea and work on trawlers. One evening I heard a shipping forecast: "North-westerly wind force 9, veering northerly and increasing to violent storm force 11. Frequent heavy snow showers. Severe icing. Poor." The area in question was Fair Isle.

I never did go to sea.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID HIMSWORTH,
Hanging Hill Farm, Kentythorpe,
Malton, North Yorkshire.

Urban dereliction

From Ms Maria Cope

Sir, Marylebone a suburb ("Lose at Lord's and weep at Wimbledon", June 21)? Marylebone is in the City of Westminster.

Looking at the other "ordinary London suburbs" referred to by Simon Barnes — Twickenham, Wembley and Wimbledon — I wondered how a London suburb should be defined: where do they start and where do they end?

Yours faithfully,
MARIA COPE,
135 Rossmore Court,
Park Road, Marylebone, NW1.

Under cover

From Mr Gerry Sreenan

Sir, Would it not be more appropriate, given the uncertainty as to what should be exhibited beneath the Millennium Dome, if it were instead to be positioned over Wimbledon? Surely this would prevent, in perpetuity, two notorious British washouts.

Yours faithfully,
G. SREENAN,
37 Peakes Place, Granville Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Letters may be faxed to
0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

COURT CIRCULAR

HOTEL NEWFOUNDLAND

ST JOHN'S. The Queen this morning visited the Hotel Newfoundland, St John's, and subsequently visited the Newfoundland School for the Deaf. Her Majesty afterwards visited the Mayor of St John's (His Worship John Murphy).

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon laid a wreath at St John's War Memorial, which was unveiled by the Mayor of St John's (His Worship John Murphy).

Her Majesty later visited a Tattoo at Signal Hill National Historical Site and sent a radio message to the people of the United Kingdom in commemoration of the first radio message received by Guglielmo Marconi.

This evening The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were entertained to dinner by the Prime Minister (Mr. Jean Charest) and the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador (Mr. Brian Tobin) at the Hotel Newfoundland.

His Royal Highness this morning visited the Royal Canadian Legion, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

His Royal Highness afterwards called at the Crown's New Officers' Club, St John's.

His Royal Highness, Founder and Chairman of the International Trusts, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this afternoon visited St John's Cathedral, St John's, and presented certificates to young people who have achieved the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Young Canadians Scheme.

Mr. Hugh Brunner (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Newfoundland) was present at the arrival of The President of the Federal Republic of Germany and welcomed His Excellency on behalf of the Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE. The Princess Royal today attended the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association's One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Show at the Showground, Dereham Road, New Colney, Norwich, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, Sir Timothy Colman KC.

ST JAMES'S PALACE. The Prince of Wales today visited Preston and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire (The Lord Shuttleworth).

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, this morning visited Horrocks' Centenary Mill, New Hall Lane, and was received by the Greater Deccle Partnership in the regeneration strategy.

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Birthdays today

Mr Claudio Abbado, conductor, 64; Sir Campbell Adamson, former chairman, Abbey National, 75; Sir Alan Bailey, civil servant, 66; Professor Kenneth Barker, Vice-Chancellor, De Montfort University, 63; Mrs June Bridgman, former deputy chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission, 65; Mr L.A. Carpenter, former chairman, Reed International, 70; Professor Alexander Fenton, former research director, National Museum of Scotland, 68; Mr Willie Hamilton, former MP, 80; Rear-Admiral Sir David Haslam, 74; Lady Holland-Martin, former chairman, NSPCC, 83; Professor Ruth Kempson, FBA, linguist, 53; Mr Robert Macdonald, MP, 61; Sir Peter Miles, former Keeper of the Privy Purse, 73; Professor Sir Alan Peacock, FBA, economist, 75; Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, 68; Professor Maurice Wilkes, FRS, computer scientist, 84; Mr Colin Wilson, author, 66; Mr David Winnick, MP, 64.

Dinners

Woolmen's Company. Mr Rex S. Johnson, Master of the Woolmen's Company, presented the Woolmen's Company 1997 Marshall Bursary to Miss Elizabeth Thomas and Mrs Louise Jones for their work at Harper Adams Agricultural College, at the annual ladies dinner held last night at Plasterers' Hall. Miss Judith Mayhew, Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, Corporation of London, and Mr W. Eric Wilson also spoke. The Earl and Countess of Buchan, the Director General of the British Apparel and Textile Confederation and the Masters of the Mastermenders and Feltmakers Companies and their ladies were among those present.

Musicians' Company. The Master and Wardens of the Musicians' Company were the hosts at the midsummer dinner at Drapers Hall last night. Admiral Sir James Eberle was guest of honour and musical entertainment was provided by Mr Jill Morton.

Foundation for Science and Technology. Lord Jenkin of Rading, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner held last night at the Royal Society. Dr Nicholas Tait and Mr John Berkeley were the speakers.

Defence and Security Forum. Lady Olga Maitland, President of the Defence and Security Forum, presided at a dinner last night at the Carlton Club. Lord Mayhew of Twysden, QC, was the guest speaker.

LIRMA. General Sir Michael Walker, CBE, CMG, CBE, Commander-in-Chief UK Land Command, was the guest speaker at the annual dinner of the London International Reinsurance Market Association held last night at Grosvenor House. Mr Philip Marcell, Chairman, presided.

Reception. The Earl of St Andrews celebrates his 35th birthday today.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Trustee, the British Museum, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, will attend a dinner for the American Friends of the British Museum, Great Russell Street at 7.30.

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The Duke of Kent, President, All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, will attend the Wimbledon Championships at 12.30 and as guest of honour will attend the Royal Television Society's 70th anniversary dinner at Baffa, Piccadilly, at 7.20.

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The award-winning Newcastle Community Centre is a venue for many activities

Village hall opens new vistas

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE traditional village hall may be in decline, but a small community in southwest Shropshire has shown the way to replacing it with something altogether more ambitious, at a cost of nearly £500,000.

Yesterday the Newcastle Community Centre, a £500,000 award-winning building, opened its doors to the public.

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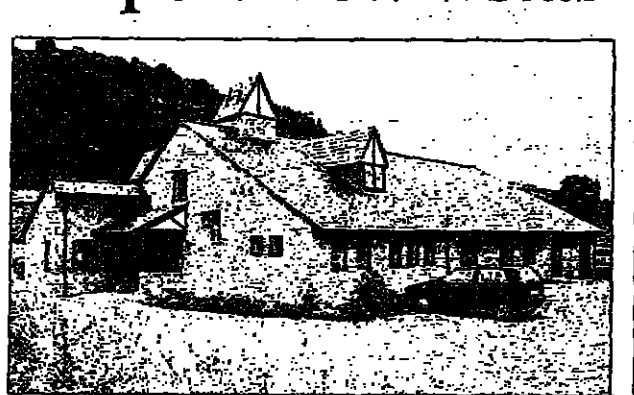
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The centre's main building, which opened last year

Countryside Commission to convert an adjoining field into a village green. The project is already partly self-financing and is intended to become wholly so by the start of the new millennium.

This year's awards competition has for the first time been divided into "large" and "small" categories. The winning small project is the provision of a laundry and

enterprise it may be, but it clearly meets a social need and exemplifies the initiative which for more than a decade the Community Enterprise Awards have tried to encourage.

Regional awards were: North East: Sedgefield Out of School Club, South Durham Hospice.

North West: Second Time Round (Charleston community business), Yorkshire and Humberside: Maud Development Scheme, Sheffield.

West Midlands: Sandwell Food Co-operative, East Midlands: Matlock Bath Youth Centre.

London: 198 Gallery, education and training resource centre, Brixton, Upper Rivan (St Saviour's with St Mary's).

South East: Crawley open house and resource centre, "Tonic" young people's drop-in centre, Alrewood.

South West: Astor Community Centre, Plymouth, Talaton Shop and Post Office, Devon.

Wales: Track 2000, South Glamorgan, South Glamorgan Community Centre, The Arts Factory.

Scotland: Lewiston Nursery, The North Project.

Northern Ireland: The Share Holiday Village.

Regional sponsors were: North West: Kew, South East: John Laing Construction, London, United Biscuits, Scotland: Quik-Fit, South West: South West Electricity Board, Midlands: Midland Bank, Community Enterprise Wales, Northern Ireland: Deloitte & Touche/Bank of Ireland.

The cost of just under £60,000 has been met by a grant from the Government's single regeneration budget and by gifts from charities and local businesses. A modest

community room, run entirely by volunteers, on the huge Beech Court housing estate in Salford. More than just an amenity, the "Dolly Tut" provides a meeting place for residents, many elderly and infirm and living alone.

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OBITUARIES

JACQUES-YVES COUSTEAU

Jacques-Yves Cousteau, underwater explorer and film-maker, died yesterday in Paris aged 87. He was born on June 11, 1910.

A generation well-nigh glutted on multi-part television ecological spectacles will inevitably find it hard to imagine the immense impact made by Jacques-Yves Cousteau's film *The Silent World* when it burst on astonished cinema audiences in 1955. In it, Cousteau led a magical adventure into an unknown world. The shimmering forms of leaping dolphins filmed from the hollow glass dome under the bow of his converted minesweeper *Calypso* are vivid in the memories of those who first saw them, even after 40 years. The book of the same title, which had spawned the film, became a runaway world bestseller, to date selling more than five million copies in 20 languages.

It may justly be said of Cousteau that he single-handedly converted marine science from a dark backroom minority interest into a popular science. He also recognised its political appeal. In the later years of his life he changed his stance from that of the effective "father" of underwater hunting (through his development of the aqualung) to that of the articulate conscience of environmental concern.

This did not always go down well with his fellow marine scientists, many of whom felt that his activities were closer to those of Walt Disney than to the work of men like Harald Sverdrup or Richard Fleming. Many scientists heartily resented his impact on the media, and on politicians and public attitudes. It seemed to some of his contemporaries that, while physical oceanographers strove to understand the circulation of the oceans, and marine geophysicists unravelled plate tectonics, the spotlight was always on a French diver in a tropical lagoon.

Jacques-Yves Cousteau was born at St André de Cubzac, a small town not far from the Gironde. Conventional schooling bored him, and he was expelled for breaking 17 of his school's windows. He entered the École Navale at Brest in 1930. His training and early cruises as a young officer took him to China, French Indo-China and the Soviet Union, including work off the coast of Siberia.

He served in a number of warships up to 1942, and was trained as an air observer for the French Navy. He had intended to make naval aviation his career but a near-fatal car crash paid to that ambition and set him on a new course. Swimming vigorously, as therapy for badly damaged and wasted arms, he discovered the element of water which was to dominate his life.

In 1937 Cousteau learnt to dive with closed-circuit oxygen equipment of the type used for escaping

from submarines. This equipment was later developed by the principal navies in the Second World War to form a diver attack breathing set for sabotage, mine clearance and beach surveillance. The equipment was limited to a safe maximum depth of 10-15 metres, because pure oxygen becomes poisonous at this pressure. Cousteau was familiar with the work done by Gilpatrick, Tailleux, Yves Le Prieur, Dumas, Corlieu and others, and gradually perfected the mask and fins which were used by spearfishermen on the French Riviera during the 1930s.

In 1939 Tailleux, Dumas and Cousteau were already experimenting with an underwater camera and Yves Le Prieur's air-breathing system. After the fall of France in June 1940, the group continued its researches under restricted conditions. Movie film was made into suitable lengths by joining hundreds of rolls of ordinary 35mm cassettes. Spear-fishing provided valuable extra food. The group's first film, *Par dix-huit mètres de fond*, was completed in 1942. Cousteau at this time was also leader of a counter-intelligence group in the Resistance, for which he was later awarded the Légion d'honneur.

In June 1943 the first automatic demand valve air breathing aqualung was perfected jointly by Cousteau and Emile Gagnan. The key patentable principle of the invention was a valve which supplies air with very slight suction from the swimmer, and an exhalation valve immediately adjacent to the inhalation valve. The inhalation and exhalation pressures were thus balanced, and the diver could breathe with very little effort. Also, because the inhalation and exhalation pressures were identical, the valve could be made very sensitive, with no risk of the air free-flowing to waste, no matter what position the diver occupied in the water. During that summer Cousteau, Dumas, and Tailleux logged 500 dives between them, with a maximum depth of 60 metres.

After the end of the war the aqualung (or, in American terminology, SCUBA — the Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) became a popular item of sports equipment, with tens of thousands of sets being sold in California alone. Sports divers today are counted in millions.

In 1944 Cousteau formed, with Tailleux, the Groupe d'Etudes et Recherches Sous-Marine of the French Navy at Toulon, the first unit of its type to develop diving equipment of all kinds. Although Cousteau was not the only innovator in this fertile field, he and his teams of engineers were directly involved in many early experiments with underwater television, underwater lighting, colour photography and cine-photography underwater, and, by the mid-1960s, the first experiments in living underwater at ambient pressure. In



Preparing to dive: Cousteau being helped into his Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus off Monte Carlo in 1965

1959 Cousteau launched the first modern and truly manoeuvrable small submarine, the so-called Plunging Saucer, which started a new industry.

The converted diving tender *L'Ingenieur Elie Monnier*, acquired in a derelict state at the end of the war, was Cousteau's first research ship. In 1951 he was granted leave from the French Navy to conduct scientific research, and converted a former Royal Navy minesweeper into the diving research vessel *Calypso*. This began a long series of cruises supported by scientific laboratories, the French Navy, the American National Geographic Society and various private sponsors. A combination of scientific investment and commercial sponsorship, with sale of film and television rights, kept the enterprise solvent. Research and filming expeditions extended across the Indian Ocean, the Pacific coral reefs, and even beneath the Antarctic ice.

The book of *The Silent World* was published in 1953. In simple, unassuming terms, the story of his early struggles was told with photographs of the undersea world in colour. It inspired a generation of young people, who took up diving as a sport or used diving in underwater research or engineering. The story projected a simple

craftsman's love of the sea. With a combination of bravery, adventure, luck and ingenuity, Cousteau and his comrades survived and triumphed over everything — sharks, storms, gas poisoning and underwater explosions. This amalgam of totally professional planning and seemingly artless modesty in presentation became the Cousteau trademark.

The film of the same name was a feature documentary using the most up-to-date technology, and was not intended to narrate the same story as the book. It won the Grand Prix of the 1956 Cannes Film Festival and the 1957 Oscar for feature documentaries.

In 1956 Cousteau was invited by the Comité International de Perfectionnement de l'Institut Océanographique de Monaco to become its director. The famous laboratory, founded by Prince Albert I of Monaco, had sunk into poverty. Cousteau was faced with the enormous task of attracting investment, promoting public interest, and improving both the research programmes and the public exhibits.

The appointment was controversial, since Cousteau was not, and did not claim to be, an academic. With typical energy he expanded the aquarium, attracted foreign

students and scientists and launched an ambitious series of cruises and research projects.

The initial patent of the aqualung was exploited by licensing in many countries, and a series of companies grew up marketing a range of diving gear, suits, masks, life-jackets, and commercial diving equipment for the offshore oil industry. The first experiments in underwater living were conducted in 1962 in the Bay of Marseilles at a depth of ten metres. This was followed by the construction of two underwater houses in the Red Sea in 1963, and finally a large spherical underwater habitat at a depth of 100 metres off Villefranche in 1965.

The intention of this last experiment was to demonstrate to the offshore oil industry that divers could live and work for days or weeks at depths of 100-200m and conduct heavy industrial work.

Numerous countries and companies copied these projects, but the development turned out to be an evolutionary dead-end. Although the idea of living beneath the waves is fascinating, the logic of economics dictates that it is always cheaper to bring divers to the surface and store them under pressure in a decompression chamber between dives.

During the 1960s and 1970s television series followed one

another with almost predictable success. Cousteau, who made more than 150 films, was synonymous with the sea, with research in the ocean and with an environmental consciousness that longed to save the planet from pollution. In 1973, with a fanfare of publicity, he declared himself totally opposed to spearfishing, the sport — or search for food — which had nurtured the first divers on the French Riviera in the 1930s.

During the 1970s the controversy over his position as a scientist and publicist became more intense. In August 1979 the death in a plane crash of his son and presumed successor in the underwater world, Philippe, was a terrible blow. Several projects went wrong. Managing the Cousteau commercial empire and the Oceanographic Institute in Monaco was an immense task for a man over 60. In 1972 the plan to build a huge diver-lock-out submarine, called the *Argonaute*, was abandoned amid financial recriminations and government intervention.

Criticism of Cousteau's stand on environmental issues became more acute. Put simply, the allegation was that he used the good name of science to justify his expeditions and filming, and then exploited the public's longing for simple solutions to environmental problems

to make money. The BBC conducted an interview programme in the mid-1970s entitled *Will the Real Captain Cousteau Please Stand Up?* In it, science journalists interrogated Cousteau before an invited audience of environmentalists and scientists.

Under this unrelenting scrutiny, Cousteau defended himself extremely well. He stated over and over again that he was not a scientist. He said that he saw himself as an engineer turned impresario, a man who could make things happen, who could give others the chance to discover truth and to change the world. At the end, the impression was that Capitaine de Corvette Jacques-Yves Cousteau knew exactly what he was doing, and was neither a hypocrite, nor self-deceiving.

Even at the end of his life Cousteau showed no signs of slowing down. He was a wickerously energetic opponent of French nuclear testing in the Pacific. He had recently commissioned a successor to *Calypso* (which sank off Singapore in 1966 after a collision with a target), the custom-designed and ecologically sound *Calypso II*.

Cousteau's great achievement was to create the popular image of the science of the sea. His craggy wizened face in half-lit profile was sufficient to market any product, expand the membership of any society, hype the sale of any book, promote any film. His books and films on the sea seemed to dominate the world of popular science and ecology with the same total obliterating effect of Walt Disney in cartoon films. After a while, there was no one else left in the competition.

At the technical level many of his innovations — the aqualung, the miniature submarine and high-quality underwater filming — were immensely creative. The underwater living experiments were a technical tour de force, even if eventually they led nowhere. Cousteau the image-maker was unique, both in the literal sense of creating moving pictures, and in the sense of touching the hearts and minds of millions with his ideas. Everybody who could read a newspaper or book or watch a television set knew that Cousteau had said the sea was important; that we must love the sea, protect it, care for it, explore it, farm it and nurture it. He changed the way in which people saw the planet: not so much Planet Earth as Planet Water.

Cousteau is survived by the elder son, Jean-Michel, of his marriage, in 1937, to Simone Melchior, who died in 1990. The relationship between father and son had lately been soured by what Jacques-Yves saw as the latter's commercial exploitation of the Cousteau name in a Fijian eco-vacation resort. Cousteau married, secondly, in 1991, Francine Triplet, and is survived also by her and by their son and daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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RENÉ TAYLOR

René Taylor, expert on Spanish architecture and art, died on May 28 aged 80. He was born on December 9, 1916.

A DISTINGUISHED Hispanist, René Taylor was better known in Spain and the Americas than in his own country.

In the early 1960s he was appointed curator of the Ponce Art Museum in Puerto Rico, a small collection exhibited in a beautiful old house. Under Taylor it expanded greatly and moved to purpose-built quarters designed by the American architect Edward Stone.

Tourists came from all over the world to admire exhibits ranging from pre-Columbian pottery to contemporary Puerto Rican painting, and from exquisite examples of Italian Baroque to a fine collection of Dutch and Flemish art.

René Claude Taylor was born in London, but his father was a travel agent who was later based in Barcelona, and René grew up in Spain and spoke the language fluently. His mother was a painter.

He was sent back to England to be educated at the Roman Catholic Beaumont College, Windsor. After leaving school he returned to Spain to study at the University of Barcelona. But when the Spanish Civil War broke out, he returned to England and took an external degree in Spanish at London University.

During the Second World War he served in the Intelligence Corps, being entrusted with the task of determining the tides, so that the body of the "Man Who Never Was" could be floated ashore on the Spanish coast from a submarine. In one of the great deceptions of the war, the corps, which purported to be that of a British officer, carried fake plans for an Allied invasion of Greece in the summer of 1943, so disguising the true intention of invading Sicily.

Handed over to the Germans by the Spanish, the Man Who Never Was fooled the Axis powers, who needlessly reinforced Greece and left the defences of southern Sicily relatively unprepared.

When the war was over, Taylor — by this time married

and with a family — was anxious to go back to Spain to pursue his studies. He wrote to Nikolaus Pevsner and asked him for his advice, and Pevsner suggested that he go as soon as possible, while his children were still young.

Accordingly, Taylor set off with his wife Constance and their three girls, all under the age of six, and began to study Andalusian Baroque architecture with great determination, gaining a PhD in the process.

The couple both taught English at Granada University, and Pevsner entrusted Taylor with the task of amplifying



and translating his *Outline of European Architecture* for its Spanish edition, published in 1957.

Taylor also lectured for the Hispanic Society of America, and was visiting professor at Columbia and Yale universities. It was on a lecture tour in 1961 that he travelled to Puerto Rico, where he met Luis Ferré, a patron of the arts and later Governor of the island. Ferré invited him to become curator of the Ponce Art Museum. Taylor travelled to Europe to buy works, particularly sculpture, of the Spanish Baroque and English Pre-Raphaelite paintings. One of his acquisitions was *Flaming June* by Frederic (Lord) Leighton and Burne Jones's painting of the death of King Arthur.

Taylor wrote several books, including *Arquitectura Andaluza* (1978) and works on Baroque plasterwork in churches and on the Sevillian carver.

His first marriage, to Constance Baker, which produced four daughters, was dissolved in 1970. He then married Lydia Argentina Santos.

MELBA'S FAREWELL
LAST CONCERT AT
THE ALBERT HALL

Parting is such sweet sorrow, but it was the sweetness rather than the sorrow which predominated at Dame Nellie Melba's farewell concert at the Albert Hall last night. It is true that the two biggest arias which she chose to sing were the same songs of farewell as she sang at Covent Garden a few weeks ago — Mimi's "Addio" from *La Bohème* and Desdemona's "Ave Maria" from *Otello*, which are more poignant and more bitter than the good-bye which she wished to bid us last night.

Not to wring our hearts over-much she eschewed depth of feeling, keeping back the bitterness of those tragic songs she poured out the sweetness of her voice. Perhaps the sentiment most fitting found expression in "Home Sweet Home" which she sang to her own accompaniment after many recalls.

Beside the two arias, which have special associations with her name,

ON THIS DAY
June 26, 1926

Dame Nellie Melba (1861-1931) gave a farewell concert in the Albert Hall that was far from dominated by "the sadness of farewell" and included *Home Sweet Home*, sung to her own accompaniment.

Dame Nellie Melba sang two arias of Mozart, "Voi che sapete" and "L'Amore," from *Il Re Pastore*, in which she had the assistance of Mr Lionel Tertis's sensitive viola obbligato. Her last contribution were songs to the piano accompaniment of Mr Harold Craxton, in which she included Strauss's "Serenade," but its half playful, half serious mood is too remote from her own style to make it the perfect ending of a last concert.

Mr Tertis played a number of viola solos. Mr John Brownlee, a bass with a

voice copious and freely flowing like Dame Melba's own, sang a number of songs, and the orchestra under Sir Henry Wood played one or two light pieces that served to lend a touch of friendly ceremonial to the proceedings.

The audience was large and liable to gusts of excitement. A pause on a dominant seventh, a prolonged note of climax, or an abrupt cadence in the middle of the music, either of voice, viola, or orchestra, was enough to provoke applause. Very naturally too, there were many proud Australians in the audience whose patriotism was a further emotional element. There can be no partings without feelings, and Dame Nellie may well carry away into her own land the warm memory of last night's leave-taking to the concert room.

The King intimated his wish that the Australian Cricket Team should occupy the Royal Box and the Prince of Wales gave his box for the use of disabled Australian soldiers. Dame Nellie Melba has sent all the floral tributes received to the patients of St George's Hospital.

NEWS

Blair gives ultimatum to IRA

■ Tony Blair yesterday delivered an ultimatum to the IRA by announcing plans to start detailed talks on Northern Ireland's future in September — with or without Sinn Féin.

The Prime Minister wants the discussions over by May 1998, with any agreement being put to the people of Northern Ireland soon after in a referendum. He was effectively telling the IRA to declare a ceasefire by the end of July to have any chance of boarding the "peace train". Pages 1, 22, 23

Mir space station holed

■ A collision in space punched a hole in the Mir space station, putting at risk the lives of the three cosmonauts on board, who were practising a docking. The unit was quickly sealed off and Russian mission control said that the cosmonauts, who include British-born Michael Foale, were safe. Pages 1, 3

Ffion resigns

Ffion Jenkins, the fiancée of William Hague, has resigned from the Civil Service only days before she was expected to return to her post serving a Labour Cabinet minister. Page 2

Game to the rain

The undercover heroes of Wimbledon waited nine hours before springing into action and removing the covers. They had to get them back on again within an hour. Pages 5, 48, 52

Diana's minefield

Diana, Princess of Wales, was said to be "extremely disappointed and frustrated" after deciding to withdraw from a meeting at the House of Commons to discuss landmines. Page 6

Value for money

Jennie Page, the Millennium Dome project's chief executive, defended her £500,000 salary package, saying she was "worth every penny". Page 7

BA strike vote

Holiday and business travellers' plans could be disrupted this summer after British Airways cabin crew voted in favour of strike action. Page 8

Back from the grave

The faces of two Egyptians who died almost 2,000 years ago have been reconstructed from their skulls which were excavated by Flinders Petrie in 1888. Page 9

Cousteau joins the world of silence

■ "Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau has gone to the world of silence," the Cousteau Foundation announced, in a reference to *The Silent World*, the celebrated oceanographer's Oscar-winning 1955 documentary. President Chirac mourned the death at 87 of "an enchanter in the tradition of ocean explorers whose life seems so much like a legend". Pages 1, 25

Phone tapping victory

Alison Halford, the former police assistant chief constable, won a European Court ruling over the tapping of her telephone which could herald new privacy laws in Britain. Page 14

Staying inside

A former British soldier offered a conditional discharge from his three-year sentence in Sarajevo has opted to stay behind bars, demanding a pardon or retrial from the Bosnian state. Page 15

Football protest

With Germany bidding to host the 2006 world soccer championships, Hitler's run-down Olympic stadium in Berlin which is meant to be the focus of the contest has provoked a row. Page 16

Hong Kong petition

Eight Hong Kong Chinese police officers with full British passports have petitioned the Queen to let them retire on full pension before the July 1 handover. Page 17

Frontiers claim

Britain claims the Amsterdam treaty text has inserted conditions on frontiers and police demanded by Spain but unapproved by EU leaders. Pages 18, 23

Clinton's past

The Whitewater special prosecutor has expanded his inquiry into any extramarital relationships that President Clinton may have had. Page 19



Members of the Household Cavalry dressed as the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse leaving their barracks yesterday to rehearse in Hyde Park for the Pageant of the Horse, which will be held on Saturday week in Windsor Great Park

BUSINESS

Jobs: The Government is to extend significantly its new jobs programmes by offering all young unemployed people training and employers a new training subsidy of £750. Page 21

Granada: Mercury Asset Management, the big City investor, indicated it would reject a £771 million bid by Granada for Yorkshire Television. Page 27

Economy: Britain's trade deficit widened unexpectedly in April as booming domestic demand sucked in record imports. Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 43.7 points to close at 4640.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 101.6 to 101.3 after a fall from \$1.6658 to \$1.6640 and from DM2.8717 to DM2.8676. Page 30

SPORT

Rugby union: Bath have the most demanding draw in the pool stage of the Heineken Cup next season. They must face Brive, the holders, and Pontypridd, the Welsh champions. Page 49

Tennis: Monica Seles, the women's No 2 seed, raced to victory in just 46 minutes against Rachel McQuillan in their first-round match at Wimbledon after rain delayed the start of play for six hours. Page 48

Cricket: Keith Piper, the England A and Warwickshire wicketkeeper, has been fined £500 and suspended for failing a drugs test. Page 52

Rugby union: Iwan Evans, the Llanelli and Wales wing, will miss the British Isles' international against South Africa on Saturday because of a groin injury. Page 52

ARTS

Holy vacuity: Great visual effects, shame about the characters and plot — all the technical wizardry of *Batman & Robin* cannot disguise the shallowness of the spectacle. Page 36

Don't cry: *Evita* is out on video with Madonna belting out the Lloyd-Webber score against a thundering soundtrack under Alan Parker's hob-nailed direction. Page 37

American dream: The summer season of the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis plays to packed houses hanging on every word — an increasingly rare pleasure. Page 38

Magic show: A new interactive art exhibition at the Barbican invites visitors to play dangerous games with computers, videos and virtual reality. Page 39

FEATURES

Stroke of bad luck: "If you have an acute stroke, do not have it in the UK," Dr Thomas Sutcliffe quotes some startling advice. Page 20

Changing places: After her hectic role as wife of the last Governor of Hong Kong, Lavender Patten is looking forward to being her own person again. Page 21

Hong Kong handover: Books reflecting a British past and a Chinese future. And Louis de Bernières on Gabriel García Márquez: Tobias Hill on Bernard MacLaverty. Pages 40, 41

THE PAPERS

After weeks of portraying themselves as taking a highly principled stance in announcing that their Prime Minister and Secretary of State would boycott the swearing in of the provisional legislature, both Britain and America have now revealed that they will have diplomats present at the ceremony. Had this compromise been reached earlier, yesterday's news might invite less scorn. But their attempts to have their cake and eat it mean London and Washington have forfeited any right to the moral high ground which they like to claim. *South China Morning Post*

LOTTERY NUMBERS

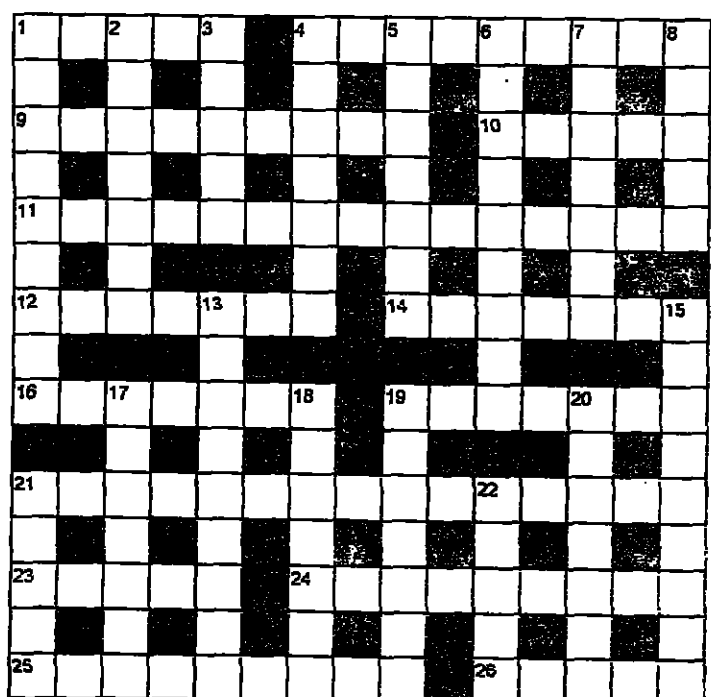
27, 38, 28, 40, 12, 17. Bonus: 6. The jackpot was £5 million.

TOMORROW

POP
David Sinclair reviews the remarkable new album by Prodigy

EDUCATION
The head of the Teacher Training Agency on plans for primary school teachers

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,516



- ACROSS**
- 1 Quiet game of cards (5).
 - 2 Bar allowed to bring in second press agent (9).
 - 3 Informed, we think, on development (2,3,4).
 - 4 Enemy tug spoken of still (5).
 - 5 Highly significant demolition of two hearts — it's no good (5-10).
 - 6 This heau could turn out to be married (7).
 - 7 Person someone was willing to help? Not him (7).
 - 8 Allowing team-leader to be considered (7).
 - 9 Vitamin Nye called for? (7).
 - 10 For two pins, provide cover and take control (4,3,8).
 - 11 Let the French back down (5).
 - 12 Dr. Ellis — he takes a turn around deck (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,515

CORNER EPIPHANY
HUA RUPHONY
INGOIN TO BOXER
E K N O L I E
FORGE GAUDINESS
W A E C S T
HOMESTRETCH YAP
I C P L E O
P E W HARBOURDURS
A O N N S
PERSONNEL GRATE
O E M T I R I S
USAGE INNUENDOS
N R N E D E R
PRESAGE LOADED

- DOWN**
- 1 European nibbled round a little fish (9).
 - 2 Cockney's suggestion to lady and gentleman is only provisional (7).
 - 3 Committee that camouflages its effectiveness (5).
 - 4 Aggressive type offering drink to monarch (7).
 - 5 Trap set up with long entrance (7).
 - 6 Mischievous child on playground is extremely rude and rough (9).
 - 7 Greatly admire Matilda's confession about son (7).
 - 8 Whip up drama abroad in great surroundings (5).
 - 9 Fix one sort of match at once (5,4).
 - 10 He organised household unusually — she cleans (9).
 - 11 They give infallible advice when boats don't start (7).
 - 12 In the ring, returned to it (7).
 - 13 Circus performer with drum about to turn up (7).
 - 14 With more grass about, Edith runs (7).
 - 15 Curlew starts off with hardly any upper plumage (5).
 - 16 In the dark, find somewhere to sleep in Paris (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 32

AA INFORMATION

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UK Roads - All regions 0330 401 410
Vehicle RPS 0330 401 888
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5. Customs reports 0330 407 508

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JUNE 26 1997

Boots directors awarded £600,000 in bonus scheme

By CARL MORTSHED
DIRECTORS of Boots gained almost £600,000 from a short-term bonus scheme that rewards directors even if they fail to meet budgeted profit forecasts. The scheme paid Lord Blyth, Boots's chief executive, a bonus of £181,000 last year, increasing his pay package 18 per cent, from £595,000 to £701,000, in the year to March 31. In addition, Lord Blyth was

awarded a bonus of £157,000 under the company's long-term bonus plan and he exercised options over shares to realise a gain of £396,000. His total financial gain over the year, including salary, bonuses and share options, was £1.25 million. According to The Boots Company's annual report, the short-term bonus scheme rewards executive directors "by reference to challenging but achievable forecasts". The performance criterion last year was

profit after tax and the accounts indicate that a bonus of 10 per cent of salary is payable on achieving just 95 per cent of the profit after tax budget; 25 per cent is payable on achieving the budget and 35 per cent is awarded for performance 10 per cent ahead of budget. Last year, the executive directors were awarded the maximum bonus of 35 per cent of salary when the company raised its post-tax profit, excluding exceptional items, by 9.4

per cent to £361 million. Boots refused to reveal what its profit forecast was in the last financial year but, assuming the company merely passed the 10 per cent over budget hurdle, Boots was forecasting post-tax profits up by 8.5 per cent. A spokesman for Boots said the bonus scheme was intended to reward executives if they get within the range of the profit target. Boots's internal forecasts were probably more conservative than

City analysts' who found their earnings per share predictions matched or marginally surpassed by the level of actual earnings announced by Boots last month. The Boots short-term bonus scheme is unlikely to satisfy the corporate governance lobby which expects bonuses to be awarded on the basis of demanding targets. Anne Simpson of PwC, the pension fund consultancy, said that bonuses should be awarded for out-

performance. She said: "You get your salary for doing your job moderately well, which includes hitting your budget. Directors will be asking for a bonus for getting out of bed next." Ms Simpson said the question was whether the budget was a target that stretched the executives. "There are as many problems with remuneration today as there were two years ago."

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Brown to broaden scope of 'welfare to work'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is to extend significantly its new jobs programmes by offering all young unemployed people training and employers a new training subsidy of £750. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will announce details of the extended New Deal jobs programme in his first Budget next week. But the net effect of the move could be to offer places to young people on the jobs scheme for nine months or more, instead of the six months originally envisaged. In talks with business leaders at No 11 Downing Street yesterday, the Chancellor confirmed that the centrepiece of next week's Budget will be the Government's New Deal welfare-to-work programme for the young and long-term unemployed. Under the terms of the programme, employers taking on an unemployed young person will be paid a weekly subsidy of £60 a head for six months, and £75 for long-term unemployed adults. But the Budget will also make clear that the New Deal programme for the young unemployed will also contain two new elements — a "gateway" scheme to train young people for the jobs they will do with employers taking part in the overall programme, and a new additional £750 a head subsidy to employers to meet training costs.

Ministers believe that the total costs will be contained in the £3 billion which David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced yesterday has been earmarked for the New Deal programmes from the money to be raised from the windfall tax on privatised utilities. Under the planned gateway programme, every unemployed youngster taking up a place on the New Deal jobs scheme will first be assessed and, if necessary, trained to prepare them. The maximum length of the gateway programme is understood to be three months. Taken with the six months of the New Deal scheme itself, it will take youngsters' time on the overall programme to nine months. Further moves could even take the total time on the programme up to a full year. The Government is to require

employers to offer either on-the-job training or day-release working towards an accredited qualification. Both moves are likely to increase sharply the take-up by companies of the scheme, which will start with pilot programmes in January in 15 areas around the country, and will then begin in earnest in April next year. Mr Brown said it was now time to "break the vicious downward cycle" of unskilled youngsters spending a lifetime out of work. He emphasised that there would be no option available for young people "staying at home, doing nothing". Britain needed to "re-build the welfare state around the work ethic". Business largely gave a warm welcome to the proposals. John Neill, chief executive of Unipart, said his company would take on young people under the scheme and said there was a warm reaction from business leaders towards it. David Sainsbury, chairman of J Sainsbury, the retail group, endorsed Mr Brown's plans, while John Roberts, chief executive of the Post Office, applauded the Government for listening to business.



Sir Ian Prosser, left, and Sir Richard Greenbury leave yesterday's meeting at No 11

Economists surprised as trade gap widens

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BRITAIN'S trade deficit widened unexpectedly in April as booming domestic demand sucked in a record level of imports. But exports also grew to record levels suggesting that the manufacturing sector is learning how to deal with the strong pound. The global trade gap increased to £961 million in April compared with £671 million the previous month. The non-EU deficit for May also widened to £563 million from £425 million in April. Total imports rose 9.2 per cent to £15.6 billion while exports grew 7.2 per cent to £14.7 billion. Economists were divided on whether the deficit will widen

in the coming months. David Bloom, UK economist at James Capel, said the pound was not having the expected "depressing influence" on exports because of a pick-up in world trade. He said that if this trend continued "it could destroy the main pillar of the growth slowdown mechanism, halting export growth". But Simon Briscoe, director of research at Nikko Europe, gave warning that if imports continue to grow and the pound finally begins to hit exports the deficit could widen to an extent that worries the market. Separate data yesterday showed the EU's harmonised measure for UK inflation unchanged at 1.6 per cent.

Standard Life loses second top executive

By CAROLINE MERRELL

STANDARD LIFE, one of the UK's biggest life insurance companies, has been hit by the departure of a second high-ranking executive in less than a week. Benny Higgins, general manager of sales, considered a likely successor to take over from Scott Bell, 56, group managing director, has resigned from the mutual organisation, for "personal reasons". He declined to comment on his resignation, but said that he had another job to which to go, the details of which would be announced in a few weeks' time. Mr Higgins became head of the company's sales division in November last year. He was previously assistant gen-

eral manager of the division, and has been at the company for 14 years. Earlier this week, John Thomson, Standard Life's chief investment manager, resigned after a boardroom disagreement over how the company ran its operations. Like Mr Higgins, Mr Thomson had been in his job for less than a year. Mr Higgins said that their departures were unconnected. Standard Life claims that it is committed to remaining a mutual organisation. However, some observers believe that after the successful flotation of Norwich Union, pressure could increase for the company to follow it down the path to conversion.

Memo to EDS staff: is your workmate really necessary?

By JASON NISSE

EDS, the American technology consultancy with government contracts worth more than £250 million a year, has asked its staff to suggest jobs that can be "eliminated" as part of a purge to cut its workforce in Europe by 2,000. In a memo to all 22,000 of EDS's European employees — 10,000 of whom are in the UK — John Bateman, chairman of the Europe, Middle East and Asia region of EDS, says that the group is cutting 7,000 to 9,000 jobs worldwide and that about 2,000 of those will be in the European region. The memo, leaked to the trade magazine *Computer Weekly*, continues: "We need to hear from you. If you know of a position which can be eliminated, a contractor who can be replaced by an EDS employee or an open job that need not be filled, speak up. You need to be involved in slimming the organisation, because it's your own job you're preserving."

that the group had 2,800 vacancies and 1,500 outside contractors working for it. "What Mr Bateman is asking is if you see a position that does not need to be done, point this out," said Mr Fox. "I have four open positions in my department. Do I need to fill these posts?" EDS's staff in the UK has trebled in the past five years, largely through its success in winning outsourcing contracts, notably for the Government. It is working on projects for the Inland Revenue and the Department of Social Security and has just been chosen to lead a £53 million project to upgrade air-traffic control over the North Atlantic. Last year the Commons Public Accounts Committee raised concern about the quantity of contracts awarded to EDS. More than half of all information-technology business outsourced by government departments is now placed with EDS. In spite of the success in the UK, EDS's shares have performed poorly on Wall Street, falling from \$63 last year to a low of \$32.50. Its recent first-quarter figures showed a fall in earnings of 11 per cent.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4640.00	(+43.7)
Yield	3.51%	
FTSE All share	2199.37	(+16.37)
Nikkei	20078.27	(+337.34)
Dow Jones	7794.03	(+35.87)
S&P Composite	900.32	(+3.98)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	98 1/2%	(99 1/2%)
Yield	6.71%	(6.68%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 1/2%	(6 1/2%)
Life long gilt	113 1/4%	(112 1/2%)

STERLING

New York	1.6625	(1.6695)
London	1.8840	(1.8860)
DM	2.8678	(2.8721)
FF	5.6795	(5.6971)
Sfr	2.3920	(2.3947)
Yen	114.94	(114.92)
£ Index	101.3	(101.6)

DOLLAR

London	1.7255	(1.7245)
DM	5.8230	(5.8185)
FF	1.4275	(1.4385)
Yen	114.94	(114.92)
£ Index	102.4	(102.6)

Tokyo close Yen 113.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$17.95	(\$18.05)
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GOLD

London close	\$338.55	(\$338.15)
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* denotes midday trading price

Wessex plea
Wessex Water made a last-minute plea that the windfall tax should not penalise companies that are good performers. Nick Hood, chairman, said calculations should be based on the value of companies immediately after privatisation. Page 25

Ionica
Ionica, the telephony company that operates in the East of England and the Midlands, said it intends to seek foreign partners in an effort to develop a significant overseas business. Page 32 Tempus 30

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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MAM unlikely to back Granada's YTTV offer

By ERIC REGULY

MERCURY Asset Management, which backed Granada's bids for both LWT and Forte, yesterday indicated that it would reject the hotel and television group's £771 million offer for Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, which was formally tabled yesterday. However, it appeared that most institutional shareholders will accept the offer, which is pitched at £11.75 a

share. MAM is believed to have bought much of its 5 per cent stake in YTTV at £12 a share. Ward Thomas, YTTV's chairman, urged MAM to accept the bid. He said: "I think they will vote against it. They may be foolish to hold out because I would have thought a counter bid unlikely." United News & Media, the television and newspaper group that owns 14 per cent of YTTV, is thought to

be the only possible counter bidder. Mr Thomas raised hopes that Granada would pay more than the current offer when he suggested this year that YTTV was worth £17 a share. He has since admitted that his comment was designed to goad Gerry Robinson, Granada's chairman. Mr Robinson called Granada's offer "extremely fair", given the state of the ITV market in general and YTTV in particular. Independent studies have

predicted that increased competition will reduce ITV's share of total TV advertising revenue from 69 per cent last year to 55 per cent in 2003. YTTV, in a trading statement, said it expected a disappointing second quarter, with weak advertising revenue and failure to increase market share. Granada expects to save as much as £20 million a year by merging Granada TV and YTTV. YTTV shares closed at £11.57 p.p. up 2 1/2 p.

£58.95 a year.

Limit fears decline in future trading

By ADAM JONES

LIMIT, the largest Lloyd's of London investment trust, yesterday gave a warning to investors that trading might deteriorate steadily over the next four years.

However, the receipt of the first underwriting profits contributed towards a quadrupling of the total dividend.

So far investors in Limit, which is also the largest underwriting Lloyd's member, have received dividends only on the investment income earned by funds deposited at the insurance market.

The underwriting profits relate to 1994 performance because of the market's traditional three-year accounting delay. Limit made a profit

before tax of £70.3 million, compared with £13 million previously.

Earnings from the managing agencies of Bankside and Janson Green contributed £12.1 million, with another £16.4 million coming from investment income.

The majority shareholdings in Bankside and Janson Green were acquired during the year. Limit also increased its minority investments in other Lloyd's of London vehicles, both dedicated and integrated, by £6.9 million.

The fund recorded a maiden underwriting profit of £51.5 million, representing a 10.2 per cent return on underwriting capacity and a larger figure than was expected in some quarters.

The underwriting result, in a near-record year for Lloyd's profits, is after a contribution to the market's special fund, but before an £8.5 million provision set aside against ongoing losses on weak syndicates.

Jonathan Agnew, chairman and a shortlisted candidate for the chairmanship of Lloyd's, said that the comparable underwriting return was expected to be more than 8 per cent in 1995, on allocated capacity of £580 million.

He added: "The increasingly competitive conditions for the 1996 underwriting account will result in a materially lower return on the direct allocated capacity of £610.3 million."

Limit is hopeful of a "small positive return" on its £614.8 million capacity in 1997, likely to be augmented by the partial return of special fund contributions for 1994 and 1995.

Mr Agnew added: "The board has no reason to believe that conditions will improve in 1998, and they may continue to deteriorate."

Limit's administrative expenses include directors' bonuses that may be worth up to £550,000 in total, relating to two years' performance.

The year's profits were further boosted by a £1.7 million exchange rate gain after hedging dollar exposure.

On September 19, a special dividend of 6p is due to be paid, in addition to a final dividend of 4.25p, making a total of 10.25p (3.4p) for the year.

A special dividend is also expected next year, but subsequent dividends, coming in a trough in the global insurance market, will aim to beat a smaller 6p benchmark.

The shares increased 2.5p to 134.5p.

League reaffirms deal with BSkyB

By JASON NISSE

THE FA Premier League yesterday reaffirmed its commitment to see through the £670 million contract with BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, the owner of *The Times*. The deal, which covers the live transmission of top-flight football on the satellite TV service, was signed a year ago and lasts until the end of the 2000/2001 season.

Peter Leaver, QC, chief executive of the league, rejected suggestions that he was pressing to end the contract so that matches could be shown on a pay-per-view basis from the beginning of the 1999/2000 season.

"The FA Premier League and BSkyB have had a very good relationship since the FA Premier League was set up and, despite the speculation, there is no weakening of the link," Mr Leaver said.

"The simple position is that our new four-year deal with BSkyB is a binding agreement which comes into place at the start of the 1997/98 season. There is no break clause and no question of terminating that agreement before 2001, nor is there any meeting planned to discuss such possibilities."



Peter Wood is leaving Royal Bank of Scotland to develop direct insurance in the US

Direct Line pioneer tries sequel overseas

By ROBERT MILLER

PETER WOOD, the millionaire founder of Direct Line, the telephone insurer, is to leave Royal Bank of Scotland, hoping to repeat his UK success in the United States and Spain.

Mr Wood, who is estimated to have earned £50 million in bonuses from Direct Line, an RBS subsidiary, is to launch Direct Response Corporation in the US in October.

In 1994 the Direct Line founder was paid £21.4 million as the final instalment of a £42 million package before he reverted to an annual salary of £350,000, uprated each year in line with inflation. Almost every UK insurer has tried to copy Direct Line's success and low-cost base.

Mr Wood, who will remain chairman of Privilege, the non-standard UK motor and home insurer, which he founded jointly with RBS, remains the second-largest private shareholder in RBS, with a stake valued at about £17 million.

Mr Wood, an ardent supporter of the Chelsea football club, said of his departure from RBS: "I'm an entrepreneur and I'm looking forward to starting my fourth insurance company. I plan to keep a significant stake in RBS, but will sell some shares for pension and trust reasons."

George Mathewson, the chief executive of RBS, said: "Peter and I both agreed that this was a perfectly natural point to leave. Our relationship has been an outstanding success and we have provided a great environment for an entrepreneur-driven person for 13 years."

Comment, page 29

Irish growth fuels skill-shortage fear

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

THE high level of job creation in the Irish Republic could soon result in a skills shortage, according to the chief executive of the Industrial Development Agency.

Speaking yesterday at the launch of the IDA's annual report, Kieran McGowan gave warning that a radical, co-ordinated approach by government agencies, training authorities and industry is needed to ensure that the republic continues to be an attractive location for foreign investment.

Mr McGowan also advised the republic's new government, which is expected to take office today, that funding should be released immediately

for several new training initiatives designed to meet the growing demand for workers with technical and language skills.

The IDA last year attracted 200 foreign investment projects, which together created more than 1,000 jobs a month. At the end of 1996, more than 1,047 IDA-assisted companies were providing 97,000 jobs in the Republic. Mr McGowan said that the average cost per job to the IDA was Ir£11,920 last year, its lowest ever.

Mr McGowan said that he expected the electronics, software, telecommunication and back-office sectors to be the main new job providers this year.

Lottery regulator eyes new sanctions

By JON ASHWORTH

PETER DAVIS, the National Lottery regulator, is likely to call for the power to impose fines on Camelot, when he issues his annual report today.

Mr Davis, who has sought to distance himself from the lottery operator, amid suggestions that he has not been tough enough, is eager to have a wider range of sanctions at his disposal. This would include the ability to impose fines for repeated licence breaches.

At present, Mr Davis can either issue verbal warnings or apply to the High Court for an injunction.

During the past 12 months, Camelot has been criticised for falling behind with the installation of Instant terminals —

a matter now rectified — and been accused over under-age ticket sales.

Mr Davis is unlikely to comment in his report on the recent "fat cat" pay furore, which led to a damaging stand-off between Camelot and the Government. What Camelot does with its money is not within his remit. Camelot has applied to run a television game show for Instant winners, offering prizes of up to £100,000, but Mr Davis has yet to make a decision.

Mr Davis has been criticised by MPs for accepting hospitality from GTEch, part of the Camelot consortium. This was long after he had awarded Camelot its licence.

Financial self-regulation 'a fiction'

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE current system of self-regulation among financial services companies is "a cumbersome and expensive fiction" that requires urgent reform, Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has told insurers.

Regulators needed to work together ahead of new government legislation so that a new enlarged version of the Securities and Investments Board can be achieved smoothly.

Melding together the 1,500 members of staff who work at the different regulatory bodies will be the first job of Howard Davies, who succeeds Sir Andrew Large as chairman of the SIB next

month. Mr Darling told an audience of life insurers in London yesterday that, although the distinctions between banks, securities firms and insurance companies were becoming blurred, they were regulated by a variety of different supervisors.

This, he added, was costly and needed to change. "We need a regulatory system to fit modern markets and a regulator with sufficient clout, reputation and stature to deal with its international counterparts."

Mr Darling said two Bills would be introduced shortly to reform financial services regulation. The first, the Bank of England Bill, is expected to

achieve Royal Assent at the beginning of next year and will shift banking supervision to the new super-SIB.

The second Bill, to reform financial services regulation, will be published in draft form for consultation next summer and could become law in late 1999 or early 2000.

Mr Darling said regulation needed to be "complementary to the needs of the financial services industry, and not a hindrance". The Treasury has acknowledged that the workload for the new project will be considerable, and Sir Andrew has been asked to draw up a plan showing how the integration will be tackled.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.31	2.14
Austria Sch	21.07	19.53
Belgium Fr	62.04	57.40
Canada \$	3.38	2.99
Cypriot Cyp	0.888	0.91
Denmark Kr	11.45	10.62
Finland Mk	9.08	8.38
France Fr	10.0	9.37
Germany Dm	3.01	2.78
Greece Dr	477	442
Hong Kong \$	13.61	12.48
Ireland P	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.14	1.06
Israel Sh	6.19	5.54
Italy Lira	2960	2738
Japan Yen	203.60	187.10
Malta	0.671	0.615
Netherlands Gld	3.402	3.125
New Zealand \$	2.58	2.351
Norway Kr	12.61	11.73
Portugal Esc	200.50	200.00
S Africa Rd	6.18	7.26
Spain Ptas	236.50	235.00
Sweden Kr	13.52	12.45
Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.32
Turkey Lira	253.000	234.000
USA \$	1.761	1.627

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Alistair Darling has given notice of substantial reform

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The smirk behind Super-SIB



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The new team at the Treasury has taken to the chance of regulating the finance industry with all the vigour that a Master of Foxhounds would bring to whipping-in hunt saboteurs. Their enthusiasm for the task has the smirk of self-righteousness. On Monday, Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary, publicly carpented Sedgwick and Legal & General for falling short on the mea culpa quotient and yesterday Chief Secretary Alistair Darling had his say.

It was management that was to blame for the industry's failures, he intoned, finding it impossible to resist reference to personal pensions mis-selling. "A good management doesn't need to be told how to run a profitable and ethical company," he said, before going on to offer a few helpful tips.

But the Government may soon be grateful for a few management tips itself. For while Mr Darling's main purpose in his speech yesterday was to talk about the Super-SIB that is to be established to regulate the financial services industry, he was light on the detail of how this giant is to be managed.

Even those practitioners who accept the need for a new regulatory framework, and that seems to be the majority, have fears about how it will operate.

They are particularly concerned about the chaos that could arise during the interim period when individual regulators are subsumed into the new authority.

Formal integration of the SROs into the Super-SIB will not be completed until late 1999 or early 2000.

The Bill that will pave the way for this will not be published for consultation until summer of next year. Yet in the meantime, says Mr Darling, the regulators are already beavering away to plan the practical aspects of reform.

Cynics from the business world will suspect that this scenario could allow bureaucrats to become engrossed in such vital details as the placing of desks and the wording on the letterheads, while a few wide boys were left to roam free among the unsuspecting punters who would buy a pension from a bookie who told them it was a guaranteed winner for retirement.

Howard Davies has a formidable task in bringing together the new regulator and the people to run it. And while he gets on with that, he is likely to

find the Government building up a list of things that need attention. Mr Darling, for instance, wants the regulators to take a look at the commission structures that might be thought to encourage hungry salesmen to flog the occasional inappropriate, but expensive, financial product.

Intentrepreneurial opening in prospect

Could the dire saga of Intentrepreneur be about to come to an end? The pub company has heaped misery upon tenants and owners alike but the world is that venture capitalists are beginning to look enthusiastically on the business. The joint owners, Grand Metropolitan and Fosters, the Australian brewer, would be likely to

greet any reasonable offer with unseemly gratitude.

In theory, the company has been heading, bumpily, towards stock market flotation, but Fosters recently indicated that it would prefer an early release from this Courage relic.

Intentrepreneur's unhappy history has made it the brunt of numerous attacks by publicans, attracted a stream of potentially ruinous legal actions and brought it into the bad books of Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister. But brush away the past and there is a company with close to 3,000 pubs and turnover of more than £1 billion. The scope to improve on last year's measly £10 million profit is enough to attract the more imaginative financiers stalking the City in search of deals.

Valuations on the business start around £600 million but,

given the fancy ratings awarded to pub companies such as JD Wetherspoon at the moment, the estimates escalate to double that. The imponderable is the extent of the outstanding liability on all the legal actions.

The scale of financial failures that hit Intentrepreneur tenants was the clearest indication of a company whose terms of trade were drafted with but one beneficiary in mind. Aggrieved publicans have joined forces to fight Intentrepreneur in the courts, and have talked of damages that could top £500 million. But the indications from Brussels are that a crucial contention in their case, that their leases were illegal under European competition law, might not stand up.

If the threat of never-ending legal action and unquantifiable damages can be put to one side, Intentrepreneur becomes instantly

more desirable. And the company has been doing its bit by encouraging publicans to sign up to a new working arrangement that is to their mutual benefit.

Industry-followers believe that the plan is a sensible prototype for pub companies of the future. Just the thing for a venture capitalist to pounce upon.

First direct line is a logical link

Few people can claim to have had such an impact on the financial services industry as Peter Wood. The unassuming founder of Direct Line has quite literally transformed the way in which insurance is sold. Now Virgin Direct and others have taken a leaf out of his book to use the telephone to pursue mortgages and other general investments such as personal equity plans. The Royal Bank of Scotland can also take credit for giving such a free thinking and restless entrepreneur enough leeway to get on and grow the business. Such faith has been repaid in spades

not to mention profits. But such success has also put the spotlight on RBS for other reasons. The City remains convinced that HSBC Holdings, owner of Midland Bank, is poised to bid for RBS, with a fall back of trying for Abbey National.

HSBC's logic is hard to fault. By buying RBS it would have Direct Line, the most successful insurer of its kind to link up with First Direct, its banking counterpart owned by Midland. Similarly, HSBC's Marine Midland operation on the East coast of the United States would complement RBS's Citizens savings and loans business also on the East coast. Of all the strange banking bedfellows being touted around the Square Mile, the HSBC link-up with RBS has the most sensible ring about it.

Putting in the boot

IF, as is rumoured, the Chancellor is looking at ways of letting the Exchequer take a heavier slice of "fat cat" bonuses, the details of the Boots scheme are likely to encourage him in his endeavours. A bonus earned by failure to hit budgets is as spurious as a guaranteed bonus. If companies are squeamish about admitting to the salaries they intend paying, they should rethink the amount, not call it something else.



Bottle bank: David McCall, chairman of Greene King. "The results from the enlarged group prove that we can hack it as a management team"

Brewer's results boosted by Magic formula

By DOMINIC WALSH

THE £200 million acquisition of the Magic Pub Company boosted Greene King, the regional brewer, which yesterday unveiled annual pre-tax profits up 49 per cent, to £36.7 million, before one-off items.

At the time of the purchase of the 260-strong group last July there were suggestions that the East Anglian-based brewer was paying too full a price. However, brokers reacted positively to yesterday's figures, marking the shares up 2 1/2p to 650p.

The company has already converted 10 managed houses to the popular Hungry Horse concept developed by Magic Pub, and in some cases turnover has doubled in the new format. A further 17 conversions are envisaged in the current financial year.

Magic Pub's 43-week contribution to turnover amounted to £80.3 million — up 11 per cent — with food sales jumping 20 per cent to £17.9 million. That helped to push Greene King's total turnover in the 52 weeks to May 3 to £253.6 million, up from £165 million in the previous 53-week financial period.

The company took an exceptional charge of £16 million, of which £2 million was the cost of integrating the Magic Pub business. About £14 million was the result of overhauling its brewing and distribution costs, which saw the closure of its brewery in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, with 132 redundancies.

A final dividend of 11.6p makes 16.35p for the year, up 12 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

Windfall tax plea against penalising good performers

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

WESSEX WATER yesterday made a last-minute plea to the Treasury that the windfall tax should not penalise companies that are good performers.

With the tax about to be outlined in next week's Budget, Nick Hood, chairman, has urged the Treasury to base calculations on the value of companies immediately after privatisation rather than now. But analysts believe that it is highly unlikely that such a route will be taken as one of the grounds on which the tax has been defended is that the utilities were sold too cheaply.

Mr Hood argues that a share price for companies six months after privatisation would be a better measure than recent prices. He said: "After eight years there is a lot of confusion and other factors in the price." Wessex and all other water companies were floated at 240p. Yesterday its price was up down at 385p. Wessex has had a share split and a capital restructuring so a comparable value would be about 772p.

The company's pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 rose 8 per cent to £145 million. The final dividend of 12.3p is due on October 1, making a total of 18p, up from 15.2p in the previous year. Earnings rose from 47.7p to 52.2p.

Mr Hood, along with most

utility chiefs, has been keen to emphasise to the Treasury the difference in performance and shareholder returns between the companies. The many appeals for individual treatment highlight the difficulty for the Chancellor in crafting a methodology that will apply equally to all the companies to be hit by the tax.

Mr Hood, whose company has not suffered losses on diversification and which is regarded as a good performer

within the industry, said: "Companies which have not had to bear exceptional provisions for non-core activities and which haven't had to suffer restructuring costs should not suffer from the tax because their performance is better."

Analysts are expecting Wessex to be hit with a windfall tax bill of about £60 million.

The company has not ruled out further shareholder returns after the windfall tax

and has a mandate to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares. Earlier this year it completed a £185 million buyback. With gearing of 37 per cent if preference shares are taken into account, it has plenty of room to gear up. The company believes that it can stretch to 100 per cent gearing if shareholder returns or acquisitions trigger a need.

Wessex followed the aggressive dividend policy of other water companies by raising its

payment for the year 18 per cent. Mr Hood said that the rise was fuelled by non-core operations and cutting costs in the core business. The dividend increase was also exaggerated by the share buyback.

Wessex had pledged to cut leakages, currently at 23 per cent, to 15 per cent soon into the next century. Mandatory leakage targets are to be implemented by the Government after its recent summit with the water companies.

SkyePharma makes 'Prozac advance'

By PAUL DURMAN

SKYEPHARMA, the drug development company, is understood to have produced an improved version of Prozac. Eli Lilly's \$2 billion-selling anti-depressant.

Confirmation is likely this year when it files for regulatory approval. The improved drug would have reduced side-effects and last longer, and would be the most important drug to emerge from SkyePharma's "black box", the secret project undertaken by Jago, its Swiss-based drug delivery arm.

With a 3 per cent royalty, an improved Prozac could be worth £36 million a year to SkyePharma, which lost £11.3 million last year. The new product is unlikely to be available before 1999.

□ Brightstone Pharma, SkyePharma's American subsidiary, has filed for US food and drug administration approval of lopamidol, an imaging agent used in x-ray diagnosis. Lopamidol is a generic version of Isosue, a \$360 million drug that lost its patent at the end of last year.

Vets' supplier sold by Gehe

GEHE, the German pharmaceuticals company that bought Lloyds Chemists earlier this year, has begun its planned disposal of some parts of the business by agreeing to a £52 million management buyout of the veterinary division (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Mercury Asset Management is investing £16.85 million in the buyout. The division distributes drugs and instruments to veterinary practices. Current-year profit of £4.5 million, on turnover of £120 million, is forecast.

Gehe also wants to sell Holland & Barrett, the healthfood chain, and Martin-dales Pharmaceuticals.

ML Laboratories signals progress

By FRASER NELSON

ML LABORATORIES has claimed the first signs of success in its attempt to develop an HIV treatment that significantly slows the development of the AIDS virus.

The drug development company, which has spent two years working on its D2S HIV treatment, said that some AIDS patients who were administered with the treatment had shown greatly reduced levels of viral load in their blood.

The same late-stage patients did not respond to HIV treatments that attack the virus

rather than the D2S method of protecting human cells. The treatment is now in Phase III trials, but the company said D2S is still a long way from a definitive proof of success.

The company named Stuart Sim as its new chief executive, taking over from Kevin Leech who stays as chairman. The company, one of the few profitable drug stocks on the market, made a profit of £2.9 million for the half year to March 31, against £83,100 last time. Earnings were 1.69p (0.06p) a share. There is no dividend.

City salaries up to £1,000 a day

By CHRIS AYRES

CITY salaries have increased by nearly 5 per cent over the past three months, with some professionals now earning up to £1,000 a day, a survey has found.

The survey also suggests that City firms have to give employees an average 24 per cent increase in pay to attract them from their present jobs. The massive rise in pay has been blamed on a shortage of skilled employees in the financial and business sector, with vacancies in both sectors having risen by nearly 37 per cent since this time last year.

Roger Steare, chief executive of Jonathan Wren, the recruitment company that

carried out the survey in partnership with Watson Wyatt, said: "We have seen over the past couple of years a tremendous amount of growth in jobs. Many employers are finding it increasingly difficult to fill these posts and there is an increasing price for what companies have to pay for certain sets of skills."

Howard Coats, head of European human resources for Watson Wyatt, said: "We are getting the first hints that skills shortages are going to push up pay levels at a rate which could affect inflation."

Graduate salaries in the City are also going up according to the survey, with

young professionals now starting on an average of £17,500: about £2,000 more than the national average wage. The jobs that are most sought after are information technology support, fund managers, commercial underwriters, actuaries, pensions administrators and secretaries.

Nearly half of all the companies interviewed felt that new technology was the most important factor in creating new skills. About a third said that changes in work practices and multi-skilling had also demanded a need for new skills. A greater focus on customer services was also believed to create new skills.

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The European Parliament

has issued an open call for tenders relating to furniture for the public area of the Espace Léopold Building in rue Wierzb, Brussels.

The total contract is for 106 five-seater seating units with coffee tables.

The notice to be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities was sent to the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities on 05/06/97.

You may request the contract documents by faxing the Equipment Service, BAK Building, Room 467 at L-2929 Luxembourg Fax No. (+352) 4300 4918 quoting reference "A.O public area".

The deadline for the submission of tenders is 05/08/97.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

City turns blind eye to public shaming of L&G

LEGAL & GENERAL's "naming and shaming" in the pensions mis-selling scandal does not appear to have the desired effect on the City that the Government intended. Confounding Whitehall officials, the price of L&G shares rose 10p to 423p as one leading securities upgraded the shares. SBC Warburg, the broker, has changed its view and is urging clients to buy.

On Tuesday, Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary, publicly condemned both L&G and the Sedgwick Group for failing to understand the Government's determination to resolve the pensions mis-selling scandal. She likened them to alcoholics unable to admit they had a problem. One and a half million people are estimated to have lost thousands of pounds each after being given poor pensions advice between 1988 and 1994.

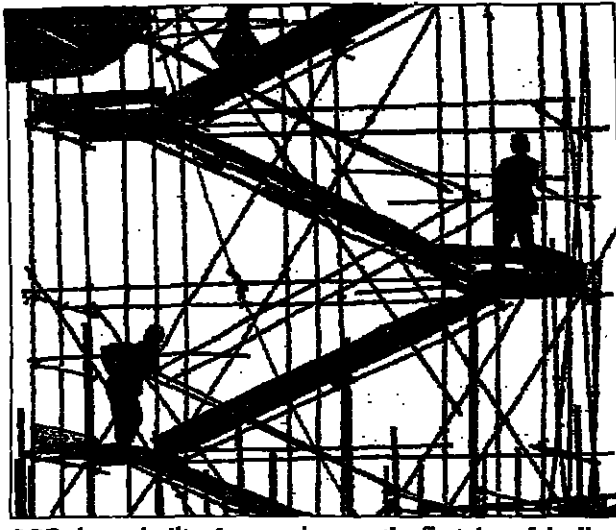
The rest of the equity market was able to extend its recovery with the help of a strong overnight performance on Wall Street and a positive response to the latest £2 billion gilt auction. With the Dow Jones Industrial average opening sharply ahead again last night, the FTSE 100 index closed near its best of the day, with a rise of 43.7 points to 4,640.0.

Heavy turnover in selected blue chips boosted the total number of shares changing hands, to 925 million. Revised institutional support lifted Centrica 4p to 70 1/2 p as 22.3 million shares were traded. There was also heavy turnover in BT (22.6 million shares) up 9p to 454p.

T&N tumbled 16 1/2 p to 143p after the US Supreme Court threw out a \$1.3 billion (£783 million) asbestos claims settlement. It had been hoped that the settlement involving 20 asbestos manufacturers and hundreds of thousands of personal injury claims would have resolved the dispute and drawn a line under T&N's potential losses.

Support for the banking sector persisted, with Halifax chased 13p higher to 77 1/2 p on turnover of 14.13 million shares. The newly floated group says that it will return money to shareholders in the form of increased dividends if it fails to find suitable takeover targets.

Abbey National continues to be viewed as a potential takeover target, with the price adding 20p to 828p. Barclays



SGB shares built a 6p premium on the first day of dealing

surged 4 1/2 p to £12.14 1/2 after ruling out a possible bid for troubled NatWest Group, 7 1/2 p easier at 817 1/2 p.

Royal Bank of Scotland suffered a double whammy, with its price falling 2 1/2 p to 575 1/2 p after Peter Wood, the man who founded its Direct Line Insurance business, announced that he was leaving to further his fortunes in the US and Spain.

HSBC, up 24p to £18.86, is playing down claims that it is poised to bid for RBS.

There was further activity among the television companies as Granada launched its long awaited bid for Yorkshire Television. The terms of two new Granada shares and £18.25 in cash values Yorkshire at £11.75, or £71 million. This year Yorkshire

had insisted that any bid would have to be pitched around the £17 level. Granada, down 10 1/2 p to 84 1/2 p, owns 25 per cent of the shares.

BSkyB rallied 3 1/2 p to 471p as City fund managers began to ponder the group's prospects after being forced to sell its third stake in British Digital Communications. Brokers point out that BSkyB is likely to remain the main source of programmes to be broadcast on the three terrestrial digital channels operated by its former partners Granada and Carlton Communications, steady at 525p.

It was the first day of dealings for SGB, the scaffolding group demerged from John Mowlem, 1p easier at 129p. Placed at 150p, SGB opened at 157 1/2 p, its best of the day, before settling at 156p, a 6p premium. Almost 3 million shares were traded by the close of business.

Greene King celebrated a near 50 per cent leap in pre-tax profits with a rise of 6p to 653 1/2 p. The group benefited from last year's acquisition of the Magic Pub chain.

Exceptional losses saw Soma plunged into the red last year, but the group insists that current trading is buoyant and that cushioned the fall in the shares which closed 2 1/2 p lower at 31 1/2 p.

GILT-EDGED: The success of the latest auction enabled the rest of the bond market to extend this week's rally. The Bank of England issued £2 billion of Treasury 7 per cent 2003 which was 2.71 times oversubscribed attracting bids worth almost £5.5 billion.

Prices elsewhere scored gains ranging to 1 1/2 p at the longer end as the market made up some of the recent lost ground on Continental rivals. In the futures pit, the September series of the Long Gilt finished 1 1/2 p higher at £113 1/2 p, as a total of £2,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent was 1 1/2 p better at £108 1/2 p, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 firmed 1/2 p to £102 1/2 p.

NEW YORK: Shares tumbled down by midday after a choppy morning that saw blue chips slip on profit-taking, recover as bargain hunters and portfolio managers re-emerged and then slid again. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 35.97 at 7,794.03.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	7794.03 (+35.97)
S&P Composite	900.32 (+3.08)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	20679.27 (+137.30)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	15065.02 (+174.09)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	870.46 (+10.40)
Sydney:	
AO	2705.1 (+16.7)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	3798.51 (+42.64)
Singapore:	
Strait Times	2023.96 (+17.52)
Brussels:	
General	13985.00 (+199.38)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2867.44 (+42.08)
Zurich:	
SWX	1163.70 (+12.30)

London:	
FT 30	2592.2 (+20.7)
FT 100	4640.0 (+43.7)
FTSE 250	4453.5 (+4.2)
FTSE 350	2344.0 (+17.7)
FTSE 1000	2113.5 (+31.7)
FTSE 1000-100	2113.5 (+31.7)
FTSE 1000-200	2113.5 (+31.7)
FTSE 1000-300	2113.5 (+31.7)
FTSE 1000-400	2113.5 (+31.7)
FTSE 1000-500	2113.5 (+31.7)
FTSE 1000-600	2113.5 (+31.7)
FTSE 1000-700	2113.5 (+31.7)
FTSE 1000-800	2113.5 (+31.7)
FTSE 1000-900	2113.5 (+31.7)
FTSE 1000-1000	2113.5 (+31.7)

RECENT ISSUES:	
Aston Villa	83p
Caradon B	28p
Heart of Midlothian	110p
Highland Timber	124p
Integrated As Mgmt	135p
Longbridge Int	117p
Norwich Union (200)	326p
Reuben's Pharmacy	19p
Reuben's Martin	110p
Royalblue Group	20p
SBS Group	110p
SGB Group	156p
Topps Tiles	112p
Versatile Group	3p

RIGHTS ISSUES:	
Benchmark n/p (200)	18p
Century Inns n/p (155)	15p
Waterfall n/p (75)	6p

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Flying Fw Uls	352p (+24p)
Adam & Harvey	259p (+20p)
DGS Group	228p (+16p)
Calsonic	495p (+23p)
Black & Leds	442p (+25p)
Cater Allen	580p (+22p)
Parity	506p (+18p)
Bank Scotland	389p (+14p)
Abbey Nat	828p (+28p)
David Bull	502p (+15p)
Legg & Gatt	184p (+15p)
BR Land	563p (+13p)
Photobank	534p (+10p)
Com Union	688p (+12p)
FALLS:	
T&N	143p (-16p)
Yorks Gp	196p (-16p)
IMI	358p (-10p)
Diagonal	324p (-8p)
BAT	563p (-11p)
BT Airways	687p (-13p)
Adams & Harvey	144p (-15p)
Blindley	178p (-10p)
Goshell	224p (-12p)
Domino	332p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Clouding the issue

THE collapse of the Geogine settlement procedure should not worry T&N. Last year, the automotive components group erected a £1.2 billion ringfence around its potential liability to victims of asbestos-related injuries. The scheme was constructed on the assumption that Geogine — the settlement procedure whereby genuine claimants were offered settlements under an administrative procedure rather than through litigation in the courts — would not survive. Yesterday's T&N share price fell at T&N, therefore, makes little sense. However, the US tobacco industry may wonder how solid any cap on future claims by smokers will prove to be under the legislation due to be passed by Congress.

The market seems incapable of making a consistent judgment about T&N's value. Asbestos is only part of the problem although

the poisonous dust has a way of clouding the issue. The issue that needs to be addressed is whether T&N's businesses are capable of generating value, leaving aside asbestos. The answer is emphatically yes, and more so since T&N tightened up its working capital.

T&N's automotive businesses are earning a return of about 15 per cent on capital employed. Potentially more important is the 8 per cent return after tax and capital investment, which offers a bidder with a large balance sheet a juicy prize. After yesterday's fall, T&N is capitalised at a mere £760 million. With the Ferodo brakes worth £300 million and powdered metal worth £300 million a bidder at this price would be getting a lot of T&N for free. The predator would need to fund a £300 million asbestos provision, but a company like GKN could easily stomach that liability.

Wessex Water

WESSEX WATER's call for elements over the windfall tax is unlikely to find favour with the Treasury but the company has a point. Grabbing funds that should have gone to the taxpayer in the initial sale, or accrued to the consumer via keener regulation, is one thing. It is quite another to hit a company harder because it has succeeded through showing greater efficiency than its peers.

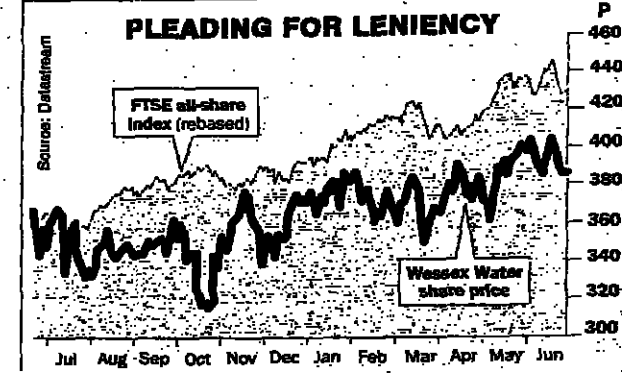
Wessex is different. It has been one of the star performers of the water sector primarily because it has not invested in debt diversification and because it has achieved demanding cost reductions.

It has further scope to reward shareholders in future even after it has shed out what could turn

out to be a £60 million windfall tax payment. Gearing is relatively low at 37 per cent, if preference shares are taken into account, so there is plenty of room for manoeuvre. Wessex has said that it could feel comfortable with a debt to equity ratio of almost 100 per cent if it felt it appropriate to return value to shareholders and/or buy

new businesses. With its bid for South West Water ruled out of court it is more likely that acquisitions will be small and that the company would look at further shareholder returns.

With dividend growth expected to be strong, at least until the next price review in 2000, Wessex shares are worth hanging on to.



Ionica

IONICA has developed a clever thing called fixed radio access, which allows phone signals to be zapped through the air by radio transmitters to small, roof-mounted antennas.

There is nothing wrong with the system; it works, even in the rain. The question is whether it has a use; almost every household in Britain already owns a reliable phone.

Ionica, which plans to raise £125 million next month in its first public offering, will not succeed unless it can convince BT customers to drop their copper wire service and switch to a dish. The strategy is to make switching easy — phones and faxes do not have to be replaced, existing phone numbers can be kept and the connection fee is only £10 — and offer cheaper prices than BT.

Still not convinced? Well neither, in a sense, is Ionica. Its forecasts are ultra conser-

vative: the goal is to connect a modest 7 per cent of homes in its target areas. But a small share does not necessarily mean meagre profits. With relatively cheap installation costs — unlike the cable companies, it does not need to dig holes in the ground — Ionica's connection costs are less than one third those of cable.

Networks built in the air eat up less capital than those built in the ground. This, combined with conservative growth forecasts, could make the shares an interesting bet.

Greene King

LACKING a case of champagne, Greene King has to resort to Abbott Ale to celebrate a sparkling set of results. Eyebrows were raised last year when the brewer strayed south from its East Anglian heartland to pay £200 million for the Magic Pub Company. But the 49 per cent jump in profits was expected by analysts' expec-

tations and well ahead of forecasts at the time of the deal. The signs for continued growth are good as investment is pumped into Magic Pub concepts such as Hungry Horse. Even its tenanted estate is holding its own in the face of tricky market conditions.

There is also upside in brewing where a £14 million restructuring is underway and heavy marketing spend is helping Abbott Ale to retain market share in the face of an assault from the nitro kegs bears as Caffrey's.

Meanwhile, Greene King's own nitro keg product, Westford Irish Ale, is benefiting from TV and trade exposure with a second such beer under development.

Much encouraged, the City is upgrading its profit estimates for the year to around £45 million — and with the ever-present whiff of a possible takeover — the stock looks a good bet.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER

COMMODITIES

LIFE				CRUDE OILS (London 6.00pm)				GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
COCOA				CIGAR OILS (8 barrel FOB)				LIFE WHOLEY		LIFE BASKET	
				Cable 100				Cable 100		Cable 100	
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TEMPLES
ing the issue

An elephant trap for Gordon Brown

After all those years in the wilderness, the incoming Labour Government was naturally well prepared. In opposition it had developed, with the help of top economists, a coherent strategy to make the economy more dynamic. Tax incentives would encourage industry to invest more, instead of paying profits out in dividends; to think long-term instead of speculating; to create more jobs; and to raise the rate of economic growth.

In his first Budget, the new Chancellor broke with tradition by walking to the House of Commons and carrying the Budget statement in a smart new brown box. "We are changing direction," he said.

James Callaghan, for he it was, duly reformed profits tax in 1965, as well as taxing capital gains. The new flat rate corporation tax cut deductions on profits retained in the business. But dividends were taxed at normal income tax rates on top. This imposed a clear incentive to cut dividends in favour of the greater capital returns to be made from investing higher re-

tained profits. But things did not work out as simply as intended.

Retained profits were cut, shrinking the amount available for investment. Shareholders obliged companies to maintain their dividends, which in most cases absorbed more of the profits than before. And investors continued to favour companies that raised their dividends fastest.

A generation later, surely the well-prepared, long-termist, tradition-breaking, direction-changing Gordon Brown could not fall into the same trap? Oh yes he could.

Ahead of next week's Budget, it has been carefully trailed that the Treasury wants to cut, preferably abolish, the rights of charities, pension funds, personal equity plans, and other gross funds to reclaim the tax pre-paid by companies on their dividends. This wheeze, it is said, is the most painless way to raise another £5

billion on top of the utility levy. A surprising alliance among the economic establishment agrees. In 1993, Norman Lamont cut dividend tax and its other self, companies pay on their dividends, from 25 to 20 per cent.

There were howls of anguish from pension funds. Share prices would tumble because dividends were worth less to them. Companies would have to pay higher contributions to keep pension promises. But share prices fell only mildly, a ten-week blip in a year when the index gained a fifth. Recovery on company profits soon saved the funds. Far from lessening funds' interest in dividends, however, the tax blow sharpened it. Fund managers bullied companies to make share buybacks and pay special dividends that more or less wiped out any Treasury gain in 1994-96, when the buyback tax loophole was closed.



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Economists and some investment analysts do not distinguish between cash income and capital gains. Private investors and pension funds do. Redfild folk draw a distinction between dividend income and living off their capital. Actuaries usually value the ability of final salary pension funds to meet their obligations by projecting future dividend income.

The effect of axing dividend relief is therefore unpredictable. Pension funds will have an incentive to favour capital gains relatively more. Yet funds, Peps and charities will also want to protect their income. There will be heavy pressure on financially strong companies to raise the proportion of profits they pay in dividends to compensate for the tax.

The revenue side is a gamble too. On the projected dividend model, companies will have to raise their contributions to final salary pension schemes over time. The relief on those contributions may absorb about a quarter of the tax that funds can no longer reclaim from the Inland Revenue. Since Mr Lamont's time, however, funds have been subjected to a new solvency regime under the Pensions Act 1995. If all of them failed the test as a result of the drop in values, companies would have to

inject so much extra capital into them that the tax relief might well leave the Chancellor with nothing to show for his tax wheeze.

In reality, UK shares prices have risen even more over the past 12 months than in 1993, so the impact is likely to be muted. Overall, however, the change is likely to raise dividend payouts rather than cut them and yield much less revenue than the Treasury originally projected.

By far the worst effect will be on the attractions of pension funds and personal equity plans, the next most important long-term financial savings vehicle. Faced with higher contribution rates, many more companies will opt instead for fixed contribution schemes, where, as in personal money-purchase schemes, future pensions depend entirely on the performance of the fund. Nothing wrong with that, except that contributions

to such funds are usually not high enough to produce a good pension.

In future, total returns to pension fund and Peps investment would almost certainly be lower. Some apologists contend that tax incentives do not affect total savings, only the vehicles savers choose for their money. But if ministers want us to provide more for our retirement, the returns to saving must be as high as how much is saved. People will have smaller pensions to live on. In any case, regular savings do boost total saving, which might otherwise go into a better house or a time-share.

A tax change that raises only half its projected revenue; that boosts dividends when it intends to curb them; and which makes pension funds and Peps so much less attractive that ordinary people would have to be forced to invest more into them, is truly perverse. With luck, we shall hear nothing of it in the Budget, except perhaps the announcement of a study. That would soon expose the elephant trap Mr Brown will otherwise fall into on Wednesday.

This year's model distracts US from economic challenge ahead

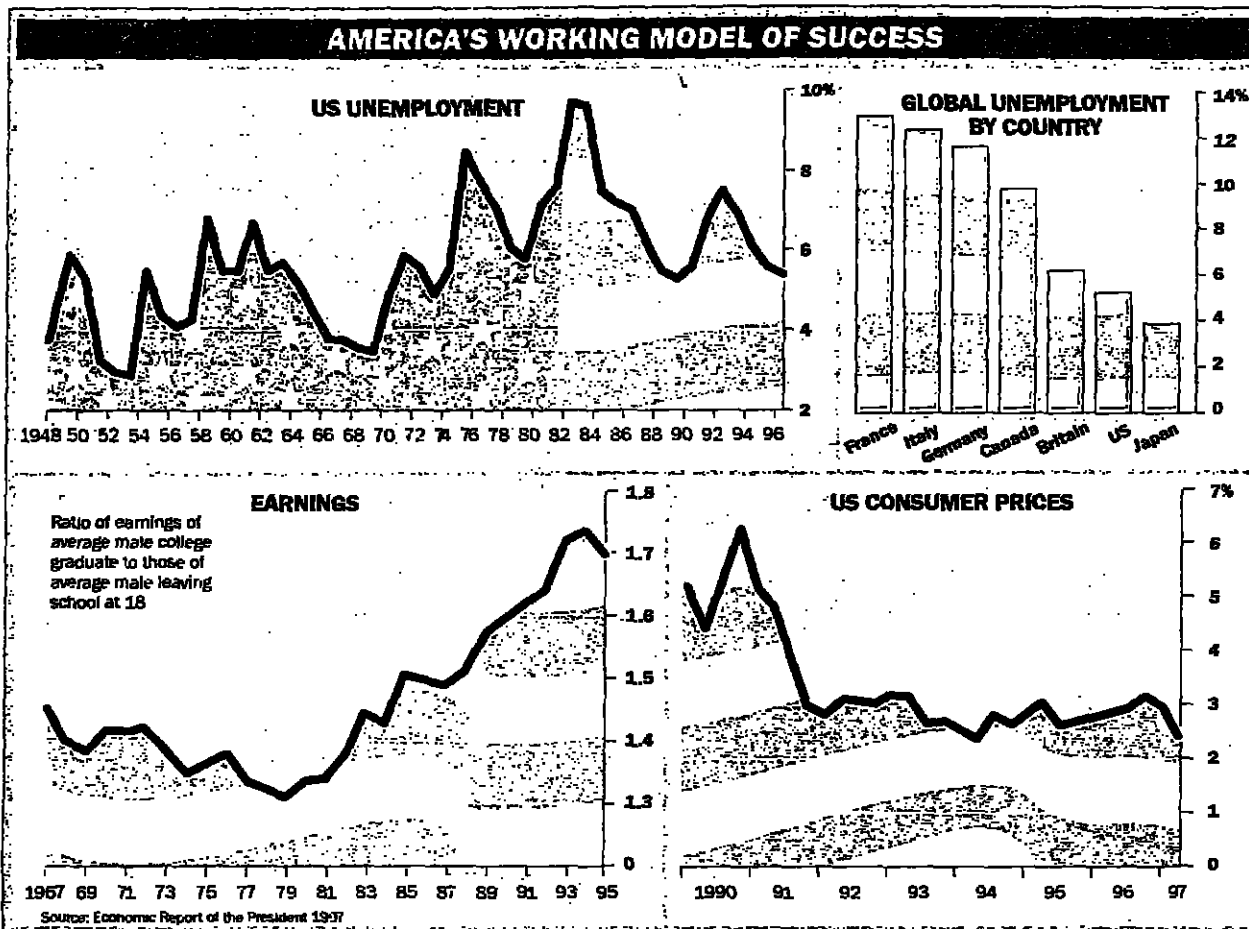
Today's boom may be seen as a missed opportunity, says Bronwen Maddox

The cowboy hats, denim shirts and rawhide chairs helped. But despite President Clinton's attempt to give the weekend's Denver summit of the world's big industrial democracies a homely, Western, laid-back air, the dominant theme was triumphalism as the United States flaunted its economic health. For the first time in the summit's 22-year history, the Administration claimed, governments had an undisputed working model of success.

By the second day in Denver, complaints from European, Japanese and Canadian delegates were so blunt that US treasury officials were told to tone the message down. But the spirit survived in official documents. "The US is now leading the way with a new economic paradigm," one boasted. Like a company collecting plaudits for its annual report, however irrelevant the authority, the White House noted that "for the past five years, the US has been ranked the world's most competitive economy by the International Institute for Management Development in Switzerland". It went on to credit President Clinton, as chief executive of America, with the past seven years of plenty.

The claims made by the US in Denver are not entirely wrong. There has been a transformation, and it has been at least partly because of government policies. But the current moralising, also a striking feature of this year's Economic Report of the President, is threatening to blind officials to the long list of problems that remain.

The Administration is proudest of one figure: in the seven years since the US last played host to the Group of Seven, the federal budget deficit has shrunk from \$221 billion to a projected \$67 billion this year. Annual



growth, then at 1.3 per cent, humbly just a quarter of the rate in Japan and Germany, is expected to reach 3.6 per cent this year, outstripping Japan's 2.3 per cent and Germany's 2.2 per cent.

Those figures are undisputed. The controversy centres around why it has happened, and so on what needs to be done for it to continue. The argument put forward by US officials at Denver is that during this period the US economy has undergone profound changes, which have set it on a course of steady growth with low inflation. In particular, they claim that official figures do not fully reflect the gains in productivity and competitiveness, and so understate the future growth potential of the US economy. The implication is that not much needs to be done for the good times to continue, unsurprisingly a view acceptable to the Administration.

Clearly, the Administration's arguments are at least partly right. There is plenty of evidence that industries which suffered badly from international competition during the

1980s learnt fast: US electronics have hardly recovered the territories surrendered to the Japanese, such as silicon chips, but have forged ahead with personal computers, software and the Internet.

Lessons were learnt fast in more traditional industries as well; many surveys suggest that the corporate restructuring of the first half of this decade, which made "downsizing" a household word, sharply improved the productivity of many manufacturers. While it is notoriously hard to measure accurately the productivity of service businesses, sheaves of academic studies suggest that this too has risen, and is significantly underestimated in official figures.

But the weakness in the US's Denver pronouncements is that it is too early to claim conclusively that productivity gains have driven growth. Sceptics point to labour figures, which suggest that recent growth has been fuelled by an increase in the number of people working and in the time they spend working. The risk is that this trend will eventually push up wages:

indeed, pessimists argue that this would already be visible were it not for recent welfare reforms, which have started to force tens of thousands of people off the benefit rolls into the labour market.

The danger of US politicians' present giddy mood is that they pre-empt these unresolved debates and overlook the long list of things which may now go wrong. Of those, inflation tops the list, as the International Monetary Fund remarked earlier this week in its annual comment on the US economy. The pressure may come not just from wage inflation, but also from consumer spending.

The financial markets yesterday largely brushed aside a report that consumers were more confident than at any point in the previous 28 years. The markets, however, expect that evidence that this confidence was converting into a big rise in actual spending would force another rise in interest rates.

As Mr Clinton's counterparts gently pointed out at

Denver, it is also stretching a point to say that the US has reached in its budget deficits forever. The ageing of the population and the unwillingness so far of American politicians to curtail pensions and medical care for the elderly mean that the budget deficit is expected to widen sharply after 2010, albeit after Mr Clinton has stepped out of the White House door for the last time. The "balanced budget" deal that Mr Clinton has just thrashed out with Congress failed entirely to address this point.

Meanwhile, as European governments were keen to point out, US inequality has widened on many measures during the boom. As the chart shows, a college graduate is now likely to earn even more than an unskilled worker. The US has traditionally been more tolerant of inequality than other G7 members, a point emphasised by the budget, which promotes tax cuts geared to the wealthy. But as Mr Clinton acknowledged at Denver in emphasising the amount that he planned to spend on education, it is not a

factor that the US Administration can ignore. On closer inspection, the much-vaunted transformation of corporate America also looks suspect. In telecommunications and electricity, industries which affect every company's costs, the US has almost entirely failed to push through the deregulation which successive Administrations have agreed is essential: indeed, the complexity of the recent telecoms legislation may frustrate competition for years.

Meanwhile, a more conservative political climate has made it virtually impossible for the President to negotiate new trade agreements, one of the clearest achievements of his first term, which have demonstrably added to US growth in just a few years.

With the lapsing of "fast-track" authority - the ability to present bills to Congress on a "take it or leave it" basis, without amendment - Mr Clinton is unlikely to be able to push through an extension of the North American Free Trade Agreement to Latin America.

The US budget deal achieved just weeks before Denver effectively removed the possibility that Mr Clinton would use his second term to address some of these deeper-seated problems with the American economy, in particular the entitlements of the elderly. The US's ebullience at Denver was not absurd; the record of the US economy has been truly remarkable. But pessimists were right to sound the alarm; when the US next hosts the summit, the current boom may seem like a fond memory as well as an opportunity missed.

Meanwhile, as European governments were keen to point out, US inequality has widened on many measures during the boom. As the chart shows, a college graduate is now likely to earn even more than an unskilled worker. The US has traditionally been more tolerant of inequality than other G7 members, a point emphasised by the budget, which promotes tax cuts geared to the wealthy. But as Mr Clinton acknowledged at Denver in emphasising the amount that he planned to spend on education, it is not a

The 'midwife' and a case of Ruthanasia

Alasdair Murray reports on a lesson of fiscal prudence for the Chancellor

When Ruth Richardson travels the world preaching her message of fiscal prudence, she arrives confident that government and bureaucrats are listening. The former New Zealand Finance Minister is credited as the architect of welfare and policy reforms that have apparently transformed the struggling New Zealand economy from a perennial under-performer to one of the most dynamic.

But her popularity with politicians and technocrats abroad was never matched back in New Zealand. Her radical approach was dubbed "Ruthanasia" as she cut a swathe through the welfare state. Her unpopularity plunged such depths that effigies of her were burnt in street protests.

She was dropped from the Government after the inconclusive 1993 election, but was still able to "midwife" through Parliament the Fiscal Responsibility Act.

It is this novel act, which is the fiscal equivalent of Mr Brown's Bank of England reforms, that she is currently trying to sell to the British. The Act brings transparency and coherence to economic policy-making by defining the financial parameters within which the Government must work.

The Government is obliged to set out its long-term objectives for public sector borrowing, national debt and government expenditure, obliging it to release a balance sheet, in the style of a private company, every month. The

budget process is also very different with the Government publicly stating its targets six months before the Budget and releasing a draft version of its plans for parliamentary and public scrutiny.

Ms Richardson says: "The Government is now forced to start by defining its strategic targets and then working out how it will fund these objectives. It has ended the 'rabbit out of the hat' style of economic policymaking."

Ms Richardson believes that this style of reform is very much in tune with Gordon Brown's long-termism. "He has shown leadership by introducing the long-overdue reform of the Bank of England," she says. "He will have a window of opportunity post-Budget to continue the momentum."

The UK Government has already looked to New Zealand for inspiration in reforming monetary policy and it is clear that the Fiscal Responsibility Act has caught the eye of Gavin Davies, chief economist at Goldman Sachs, and a regular adviser of Mr Brown.

Opposition to Mr Brown introducing such a reform is likely to come from inside the Labour Party. Some backbenchers have already expressed concern that the monetary policy reforms have limited the Government's room for manoeuvre.

Ms Richardson also emphasises that the Fiscal Responsibility Act does not prevent parties advocating higher public spending. "But crazy parties can no longer put forward crazy policies," she said.

All at sea

SBC WARBURG does not seem to be taking the new Government terribly seriously. A few weeks ago it invited a number of corporate guests to Henley Regatta, where everyone drinks too much champagne and no one watches any rowing. The day chosen was July 2. At that time, budgets were traditionally held on Tuesdays. Now Warburg has fallen foul of the same trap

that caught the annual Extel analysts' survey. Extel has decided to shorten the ceremony. But when guests queried the Warburgs invitation, they were told to come anyway.

●TORY workers at a trade show in London yesterday mobbed one particular stand and snapped up all the spare pencils in sight. Can't think why. The stand was promoting the Riiz Hotel.

Taking Flight

THEY are a long-lived breed in fund management. Already this week Michael Hart has agreed to take over as director-general of the Association of Investment Trust Companies at 65, with no idea when he might be retiring. Now another doyen of the industry has a new job - at 68. Tom Griffin, co-founder of GT Management, is the first chairman of recently merged Guinness Flight Hambro Asset Management. It is something of a sentimental return - his first job in the City was at Foreign & Colonial, but the company was in the throes of an



office move. He spent his first six months on secondment to Hambros Bank.

Child's play

FIRST Thomas the Tank Engine, then Paddington, now Captain Pugwash, ring interbrand, the specialist consultancy, for tips on the next half-forgotten children's programme to be made this week's hot brand. Chris Cleaver, a director, says the programme must be remembered, through a patina of nostalgia, by the people who actually buy the spin-off products. "The parents see it and it

seems familiar to them in a way that some of the other things invented more recently - Sonic the Hedgehog, Power Rangers - are not." He speculates on Camberwick Green, Trumpton, or characters out of the Flintstones stable from the US. I plump for Noddy the Dog - Vikings, dragons, trolls, how can it fail?

●HARD to credit it, I know, but the boom in City legal work has created a shortage of lawyers. Fenners, a small father-and-son partnership started as a breakaway from Berwin Leighton two years ago, has had the executive headhunters searching three months for a young potential partner, competitive salary - which must mean £50,000 and upwards. No takers so far. "There's nobody out there," wails a colleague. "Because of the recession, people stopped hiring. There's nobody coming through at that level." Hope dawns for John and Robert Fenners, though. Forget the headhunters; next Tuesday, sensible chaps, they are advertising in The Times.

Nash return

NEWS of Andy Nash, former marketing director at Taunton

Cider and the man who took the rap, unfairly I always thought, for last year's disasters at Matthew Clark. Nash is joining as a non-executive director of Nicholson Graham & Jones, the City lawyer, and is apparently expected to bring his expertise in marketing fizzy drinks to the legal profession. Lawyers marketing themselves? Matthew Clark, oddly enough, is a client of Nicholson Graham & Jones, which suggests the next client meeting could be fun.

MARTIN WALLER



Andy Nash will bring skill in fizzy drinks to the law

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Ionica ready to seek partners overseas

By ERIC REGULY

IONICA, the wireless telephony company which currently operates in the East of England and the Midlands, said it intends to seek foreign partners in an effort to develop a significant overseas business.

The strategy was outlined yesterday, when the company announced the details of its £125 million flotation scheduled for next month. Nigel Playford, 41, the chief executive who founded Ionica in 1991, said: "It could be that the United Kingdom becomes a side show for us."

Ionica will probably bid for foreign operating licences and expects to receive an ever-increasing stream of overseas royalties on the wireless technology that it developed jointly with Nortel, the Canadian

communications company. The system, which uses radio signals to deliver telephone signals to roof-mounted antennas, is currently being installed in Scotland, Finland, the Czech Republic and Australia, among other countries.

The flotation is expected to value Ionica at between £538 million and £581 million, with an offering of about 35 million ordinary shares at a price between 370p and 390p. The offer price is due to be announced on July 18, with share dealings on the London Stock Exchange and America's Nasdaq market starting the same day. Mr Playford will own 6.6 per cent of Ionica, valued at about £38 million, after the flotation.

None of the existing shareholders, which include Yorkshire Electricity, Doughty Hanson and Morgan Stanley, is selling its equity. The £125 million is new money and will be used to help to complete Ionica's national roll-out by 2001.

Ionica is aiming for 7 per cent market penetration and expects to make net profits in four years. Relatively inexpensive installation costs and prices that it claims are 15 per cent less expensive than BT's are behind its growth strategy. Since no digging is required, Ionica said it can connect customers for an average of £720. The cable industry, by comparison, has been spending three to four times that amount to connect its customers.

Ionica has so far raised £400 million, half in equity and half in debt, to fund its operations and expansion. The company is to raise a further £300 million in debt at the same time as the flotation; about £100 million of this amount is to be underwritten by Nortel.

In the past financial year, Ionica reported a loss of £43.9 million on turnover of £14.9 million. It had 22,000 customers at the end of May.

Hogg to pull out of transport

By ADAM JONES

HOGG ROBINSON is to sell its transport division, which had turnover of £121 million last year, to concentrate on business travel and financial services.

The company yesterday said pre-tax profit was £28.1 million (£26.3 million) for the year to March 31. The figure does not include exceptional costs of £3.5 million relating to the sale of Ways, its loss-making Dutch logistics business.

Hogg Robinson shocked the market with a profit warning in January.

David Radcliffe, formerly managing director of the business travel division, has been appointed chief executive.

A dividend of 6.1p (5.45p) is to be paid on August 8, making a total of 9.8p (8.75p) for the year.



Rob Yates, left, chief executive of John Tams Group, Gerald Tams, chairman, and Mark Taylor, finance director, celebrate a return to profit by the manufacturer of ceramic household

products. John Tams made pre-tax profits of £1.9 million for the year to March 31, up from a loss of £204,000 in the previous 12 months. Turnover fell to £27.3 million, from £28.9 million, but

operating profits rose to £2.12 million, from an adjusted £1.39 million, reflecting benefits of cost-cutting and increased focus on higher-margin products. A 2.41p final dividend makes 4.01p (same).

Lambert's link-up cost spelt out

ABOUT half of the £11 million cost of the merger between the insurance brokers Lowndes Lambert and Fenchurch Group has gone on staff redundancies and incidental expenses (Marianne Curphey writes).

The new company, Lambert Fenchurch, announced pre-tax profit of £14.6 million before exceptional items for the year to March, compared with £13.9 million for Lowndes Lambert only in 1996. The latest figure included a £300,000 contribution from Fenchurch for the first six weeks of the merger.

Other costs relating to the merger included a writedown for unoccupied property and obsolete computer systems after the link-up in February.

Earnings per share were down slightly to 14.8p (15.6p) and the final dividend is maintained at 5.5p a share, making 8.4p again for the year.

Manders issues profits warning

By OLIVER AUGUST

MANDERS, the chemicals company, issued a profits warning yesterday in the wake of a margin squeeze caused by the rising pound. It said "pre-tax profit for 1997 will be significantly below market expectations". Analysts had forecast profits of about £8 million.

The company claimed to be hit particularly hard by sterling's strength because 75 per cent of its output is sold overseas. The purchase of raw materials abroad added to the currency problems.

In a trading statement, the company said that although sales volume in the first five months improved through organic growth, continued pressure on selling prices together with higher material prices, had eroded margins.

Manders said that the strong pound has also had a significant effect on the translated value of profits of overseas subsidiaries. The warning surprised the City as it came only three months after the annual results in March. The company said then that "the impact of sterling on our business would be limited and the effects of translating our results into sterling not too marked".

The share price did not move from 130p yesterday. Analysts had already discounted the probability of currency problems, at which the company had hinted in March. The share price has fallen by more than 50 per cent over the past year.

The company said: "Our balance sheet remains strong and while first-half profits will be disappointing compared with last year, competitive pressures on prices are weakening, and we are confident that profitability will be improved in the second half."

Japanese market rises on survey

THE Japanese stock market surged overnight after the Bank of Japan's quarterly Tankan survey revealed much stronger business sentiment than previously suspected (George Sivel writes).

Japanese analysts said the survey result was ideal, suggesting that the tone of the economy was strong but not enough to justify an early rise in the official discount rate. However, they remained wary of the possibility of a rate rise from the current 0.5 per cent by the autumn.

The Nikkei average rose 337.34 points to close at 20,679.27. The dollar dipped more than one yen from late Tuesday's New York levels to ¥113.38. Japanese government bond and euroyen futures fell.

The survey measures the balance of companies that see conditions as favourable over those that do not. The June index was plus seven, up from plus two in March.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Opec heavyweights press for output cut

SAUDI ARABIA and Iran, the heavyweight members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries have increased pressure on Venezuela, the cartel's biggest quota violator, to cut excess production and help to ratchet up the price of oil. Delegates at the quota-setting Opec meeting, however, doubted that the move would have much impact. Opec was ready to open Vienna talks to assign production quotas for the six months from July 1.

Delegates forecast that a Saudi-backed majority would favour the expedient of freezing current quotas under the ceiling of 25 million barrels a day until the year's end. However, the Saudis, working with Iran, were trying to deal with quota violations by some members, led by Venezuela, that have lifted actual Opec output two million barrels above the target.

Food exports plea

BRITAIN could double the value of its food and drink exports by 2005 to more than £20 billion, a new report says. Food companies should focus on growing markets in Asia Pacific and Eastern Europe, according to the Food From Britain export marketing consultancy. They should also play on their ability to innovate by concentrating on convenience and value-added goods. An increasingly saturated home market will mean limited growth opportunities in the next few years.

Vocalis loss deepens

VOCALIS, the speech technology and call processing group, lost £1.9 million before tax in the year to March 31, a deterioration from the £1.2 million loss in the previous year. Losses per share accelerated from 4.85p to 6.1p. The group raised £4.4 million in a flotation last July and at the year end had £2.9 million in cash or on deposit. It said: "We have moved well towards the goals established before the public issue. The group now has all of the components necessary for success."

Penna at the double

PENNA, the human resource services group, reported pre-tax profits up to £2.27 million (£1.06 million) in the year to March 31, on £16.7 million sales (£14.7 million). Earnings per share rose from 10.12p to 20.26p. The total dividend is maintained at 2p. Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, chairman, said: "Current operating conditions show good demand for all the services we provide. We hope to continue the steady growth we have enjoyed these past two and a half years."

GEI leaps to £5.5m

GEI INTERNATIONAL, the processing and packaging machinery group, lifted pre-tax profits to £5.5 million, from £1.8 million, in the year to March 31. Turnover from continuing operations fell to £85 million, from £91 million. The company has completed its withdrawal from steel manufacturing. The total dividend is unchanged at 4.5p a share, with a 3p final. Earnings rose to 9.3p a share, from 4.7p. The shares rose 1p, to 99p.

Chesterfield acquisition

CHESTERFIELD PROPERTIES has made its first acquisition in retail warehousing, paying £11.1 million for the 96,000 sq ft Admiral Retail Park in Eastbourne, East Sussex. Tenants at the development, which is due for completion in September, will be Homebase, Scottish Power, Pet City, Wickes, Tempo and McDonalds. The vendor is Spen Hill Properties. Chesterfield will pay an initial consideration of £8.8 million, with the balance due on completion of the development.

ACCOUNTANCY

End of the line for tax credit?

David Cruickshank cautions the Chancellor of the Exchequer against rushing into a decision

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, wants to raise more money in next week's Budget. He has also said the present system encourages companies to pay excessive dividends rather than retain profits to invest in the business. That must mean the tax credit is at risk.

Abolishing the tax credit would be easy, but the ramifications would be widespread. Some suggest that Mr Brown will reduce it by 5 per cent now, with a view to phasing it out over a period. But that does not conjure away the problems: it merely eases the adjustment to them. Here are some of the consequences of getting rid of the credit.

□ **Charities:** Many charities invest a large part of their capital in equities. The 20 per cent reduction in dividend yield would force them to curtail activities.

□ **Pension funds:** By far the majority of occupational pension funding is done under "final-salary" schemes. If the tax credit is abolished, the 20 per cent reduction in dividend yield will produce a double whammy since employers will have to make good both the future pension shortfall caused by lower dividend income and the reduction in capital value built up to meet pensions that have already

accrued. This value must be actuarially calculated by reference to the (now reduced) income the fund can generate.

This, in turn, will reduce the corporation tax yield, or it may precipitate a move from final-salary schemes to "money-purchase" schemes. As with personal pensions and additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) the loss of dividend yield would reduce members' pensions.

□ **Debt/equity bias:** Abolishing the tax credit will add to the bias against equity in favour of debt finance. If interest and dividend rates were equal, the net return on loan finance would be about 20 per cent greater than that on equity finance. Risk-free lending would be favoured at the expense of risk-bearing equity finance.

□ **Would ACT be kept?** The tax credit goes hand in hand with advance corporation tax, but even if the Chancellor abolishes the former I would expect him to keep the latter.

A short-term reason for continuing to make companies pay part of their corporation tax in advance when they pay dividends is to keep up the cashflow to the Exchequer. Without any ACT, even if it is replaced by a dividend withholding tax,



David Cruickshank would like wider discussion

there will be a shortfall of revenue in the first year. Only in the second year will revenue receipts go up, when the full amount of the first year's corporation tax is received without any ACT to offset it.

□ **International groups:** A longer-term reason for keeping ACT is to do with international groups. Some groups that have high overseas earnings do not pay much corpo-

ration tax. The ACT they pay on their dividends is not so much a prepayment as the only payment of corporation tax. The Exchequer would lose permanently from such groups if ACT were abolished.

These groups often try to maximise their UK-source profits at the expense of foreign-source profits. For instance, they may finance their

foreign subsidiaries mainly by debt rather than equity; this gives them "clean" interest in the UK rather than dividends that are "sullied" by a credit for foreign tax.

They do this not out of a sense of patriotism, but to bear enough UK tax to pay dividends without increasing their tax liability. They will no longer have the incentive to plan the UK sourcing of profits if ACT is abolished.

□ **Tax credit and basic rate:** If, initially, the Chancellor does no more than reduce the tax credit by 5 per cent, he will have to solve a Chinese puzzle. If the basic rate of tax stays at 23 per cent, will he collect the missing 8 per cent from basic rate taxpayers?

Eight per cent is a large margin, but it would be cumbersome to collect it from shareholders who typically have small portfolios of shares in utilities and demutualised building societies. Many more people would have to submit self-assessment tax returns.

□ **Conclusion:** To reduce the credit by 5 per cent would have considerable consequences. If the Chancellor is contemplating further cuts I hope he will put forward his ideas for the widest possible discussion.

Mistaking the consequences could create considerable financial turmoil and undo the Government's aim to create a stable business environment and engender long-term confidence.

The author is head of London tax. Debitus 13 Tranche

Why Mitchell should carry on regardless

IT MAY be time to knock the Austin Mitchell phenomenon on the head. For years, the garrulous MP for Great Grimsby has been the populist frontman for attacking the accountancy profession. First, he simply enraged the profession. Then they grew to like him. "If we didn't have Austin," senior people in the large firms and at the institutes say, "we would have to invent him."

The view was that Mitchell's stream of articles and speeches, peppered as they were with the old Labour jargon in which business was run exclusively by "toffs" and "chaps," was good for the profession. All the cardboard cut-out clichés reminded accountants of their responsibilities. But they also knew that it was delivered in such a delightfully old-fashioned knockabout style that they had little to fear.

They also knew the background. Professor Prem Sikka, a man they tended to view as an eccentrically obsessive critic, was the provider of enormous sheaves of Mitchell's rhetoric.

But accountants who met Mitchell when Sikka was not at his elbow knew that, by and large, the genial MP was not so wildly at odds with their views as the ranting articles might have suggested. And we know from a recent article written by Mitchell's wife that the family view of Sikka is not necessarily that he is a man with his finger fully on the political pulse.

Mitchell has made his mark. Certainly the current proposals for the independent oversight board planned by the profession and much of the emphasis on a level playing field in the debate over limited liability partnerships would not have come about if he had not been such a persistent critic.

But now we seem to have reached the point where the Mitchell performances have less and less contact with what is going on in the profession. The profession has changed. The Government has changed. The only thing that hasn't is Mitchell's material. His script remains the same.

This became obvious in the adjournment debate on the regulation of auditors that he initiated last week in the House of Commons. He happily ignored his party's manifesto pledge, garbled through it was, to review the law on joint and several liability and provide accountants "with adequate protection". Instead he rattled off an attack on the idea of limited liability partnerships. He praised the American authorities for their regulatory

zeal, yet ignored the fact that they seem perfectly comfortable with such partnerships. If such measures were introduced here it "would ensure that all the partners in a practice, who are currently liable down to their last Jaguar and their last yacht, could evade their liabilities", he said.

He had a go at "the dubious and dodgy tactics used by the big accountancy firms" in this matter. He had a rant about the "tin-pot jurisdiction in Jersey" that could allow such partnership structures. On the subject of regulation he ignored the existence of the profession's proposals for an independent oversight board. He hardened his usual "chaps regulating chaps" gibe to "the mafia regulates the mafia".

All this was standard stuff. But what was interesting was the response from Ian McCartney, Department of Trade and Industry Minister responsible for the profession. He emphasised that "our fundamental responsibility is to come to a view on how to strike a fair overall balance in the public interest".

He thanked Mitchell for his "animated, enthusiastic and provocative presentation". But he took none of Mitchell's points on board. He pointed out that the DTI had itself commissioned an independent academic to look into the profession's record on regulation in 1994 and that his conclusion was that "self-regulation is being operated conscientiously". He pointed out that Mitchell had got some of his figures wrong.

The impression he gave was that the Government would stick to its manifesto pledges and that fairness would be its watchword. In other words, the Mitchell era of slapstick and innuendo, however well meant, is over.

Yet it will be a sad day for the profession if his colourful scatter-gun approach is lost. This week we learnt that this year, for the first time in a decade, accountancy firms are refusing to release any voluntary figures on their financial performance. *Accountancy*, the journal of the English ICA, traditionally collates the figures and calculates a Top 50. But this year the majority of the senior firms are refusing to provide figures at all. It seems at best odd, and at worst perverse, that the guild, which all know that disclosure is the *quid pro quo* for any change in partnership legislation, should refuse to make any figures, however rough and ready, available.

Forget about retirement Austin. Pick up your pen once more.



ROBERT BRUCE

Happiness is higher pay

FINANCE directors are happy souls. Or so the latest survey says. Hays Accountancy Personnel surveyed 450 finance directors and found that two thirds of them felt the future looked good or very good. That might not be surprising considering the survey's other findings. The finance directors report that workload per employee has in-

creased 60 per cent in the manufacturing sector and 61 per cent in services while they have paid them less. Fifty-seven per cent of finance directors reported that they had doled out pay rises of between 1 per cent and 3.4 per cent. Meanwhile, they have paid themselves more. Sixty per cent of finance directors reported that management pay had gone up more than 4.5

per cent, which probably explains the happiness.

Fuller figures

IN SPITE of the continuing reluctance of accountancy firms to release figures Saffery Champness is keen to swim against the tide. Not only has it just announced a 10 per cent increase in fee income to £18.6 million for its

1996-97 year but it has also revealed that it has been awarded nationwide accreditation by Investors in People. It is only the second accountancy firm to have achieved such an award.

Sporting lives

GRAHAM WARD, deputy chairman of Price Waterhouse's world energy

group and a persistent contender for the presidential ladder at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, has always had a sporting reputation. He was famously the university's heavyweight boxing champion when he was at Oxford. But now his prowess is rubbing off on others. His secretary at Price Waterhouse, Jo Hogan, is All England county champion at bar billiards.

ROBERT BRUCE

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189 ^a	157 ^a	158 ^a	159 ^a	160 ^a	161 ^a	162 ^a	163 ^a	164 ^a	165 ^a	166 ^a	167 ^a	168 ^a	169 ^a	170 ^a	171 ^a	172 ^a	173 ^a	174 ^a	175 ^a	176 ^a	177 ^a	178 ^a	179 ^a	180 ^a	181 ^a	182 ^a	183 ^a	184 ^a	185 ^a	186 ^a	187 ^a	188 ^a	189 ^a	190 ^a	191 ^a	192 ^a	193 ^a	194 ^a	195 ^a	196 ^a	197 ^a	198 ^a	199 ^a	200 ^a	201 ^a	202 ^a	203 ^a	204 ^a	205 ^a	206 ^a	207 ^a	208 ^a	209 ^a	210 ^a	211 ^a	212 ^a	213 ^a	214 ^a	215 ^a	216 ^a	217 ^a	218 ^a	219 ^a	220 ^a	221 ^a	222 ^a	223 ^a	224 ^a	225 ^a	226 ^a	227 ^a	228 ^a	229 ^a	230 ^a	231 ^a	232 ^a	233 ^a	234 ^a	235 ^a	236 ^a	237 ^a	238 ^a	239 ^a	240 ^a	241 ^a	242 ^a	243 ^a	244 ^a	245 ^a	246 ^a	247 ^a	248 ^a	249 ^a	250 ^a	251 ^a	252 ^a	253 ^a	254 ^a	255 ^a	256 ^a	257 ^a	258 ^a	259 ^a	260 ^a	261 ^a	262 ^a	263 ^a	264 ^a	265 ^a	266 ^a	267 ^a	268 ^a	269 ^a	270 ^a	271 ^a	272 ^a	273 ^a	274 ^a	275 ^a	276 ^a	277 ^a	278 ^a	279 ^a	280 ^a	281 ^a	282 ^a	283 ^a	284 ^a	285 ^a	286 ^a	287 ^a	288 ^a	289 ^a	290 ^a	291 ^a	292 ^a	293 ^a	294 ^a	295 ^a	296 ^a	297 ^a	298 ^a	299 ^a	300 ^a	301 ^a	302 ^a	303 ^a	304 ^a	305 ^a	306 ^a	307 ^a	308 ^a	309 ^a	310 ^a	311 ^a	312 ^a	313 ^a	314 ^a	315 ^a	316 ^a	317 ^a	318 ^a	319 ^a	320 ^a	321 ^a	322 ^a	323 ^a	324 ^a	325 ^a	326 ^a	327 ^a	328 ^a	329 ^a	330 ^a	331 ^a	332 ^a	333 ^a	334 ^a	335 ^a	336 ^a	337 ^a	338 ^a	339 ^a	340 ^a	341 ^a	342 ^a	343 ^a	344 ^a	345 ^a	346 ^a	347 ^a	348 ^a	349 ^a	350 ^a	351 ^a	352 ^a	353 ^a	354 ^a	355 ^a	356 ^a	357 ^a	358 ^a	359 ^a	360 ^a	361 ^a	362 ^a	363 ^a	364 ^a	365 ^a	366 ^a	367 ^a	368 ^a	369 ^a	370 ^a	371 ^a	372 ^a	373 ^a	374 ^a	375 ^a	376 ^a	377 ^a	378 ^a	379 ^a	380 ^a	381 ^a	382 ^a	383 ^a	384 ^a	385 ^a	386 ^a	387 ^a	388 ^a	389 ^a	390 ^a	391 ^a	392 ^a	393 ^a	394 ^a	395 ^a	396 ^a	397 ^a	398 ^a	399 ^a	400 ^a	401 ^a	402 ^a	403 ^a	404 ^a	405 ^a	406 ^a	407 ^a	408 ^a	409 ^a	410 ^a	411 ^a	412 ^a	413 ^a	414 ^a	415 ^a	416 ^a	417 ^a	418 ^a	419 ^a	420 ^a	421 ^a	422 ^a	423 ^a	424 ^a	425 ^a	426 ^a	427 ^a	428 ^a	429 ^a	430 ^a	431 ^a	432 ^a	433 ^a	434 ^a	435 ^a	436 ^a	437 ^a	438 ^a	439 ^a	440 ^a	441 ^a	442 ^a	443 ^a	444 ^a	445 ^a	446 ^a	447 ^a	448 ^a	449 ^a	450 ^a	451 ^a	452 ^a	453 ^a	454 ^a	455 ^a	456 ^a	457 ^a	458 ^a	459 ^a	460 ^a	461 ^a	462 ^a	463 ^a	464 ^a	465 ^a	466 ^a	467 ^a	468 ^a	469 ^a	470 ^a	471 ^a	472 ^a	473 ^a	474 ^a	475 ^a	476 ^a	477 ^a	478 ^a	479 ^a	480 ^a	481 ^a	482 ^a	483 ^a	484 ^a	485 ^a	486 ^a	487 ^a	488 ^a	489 ^a	490 ^a	491 ^a	492 ^a	493 ^a	494 ^a	495 ^a	496 ^a	497 ^a	498 ^a	499 ^a	500 ^a																																										
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[illegible]

100%	100%	Incus 1975-1980	100%
100%	100%	Incus 1981-1986	100%
100%	100%	Incus 1987-1990	100%
100%	100%	Incus 1991-1996	100%
100%	100%	Incus 1997-2000	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2001-2006	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2007-2010	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2011-2016	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2017-2020	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2021-2026	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2027-2030	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2031-2036	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2037-2040	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2041-2046	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2047-2050	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2051-2056	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2057-2060	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2061-2066	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2067-2070	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2071-2076	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2077-2080	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2081-2086	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2087-2090	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2091-2096	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2097-2100	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2101-2106	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2107-2110	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2111-2116	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2117-2120	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2121-2126	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2127-2130	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2131-2136	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2137-2140	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2141-2146	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2147-2150	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2151-2156	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2157-2160	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2161-2166	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2167-2170	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2171-2176	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2177-2180	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2181-2186	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2187-2190	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2191-2196	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2197-2200	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2201-2206	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2207-2210	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2211-2216	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2217-2220	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2221-2226	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2227-2230	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2231-2236	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2237-2240	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2241-2246	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2247-2250	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2251-2256	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2257-2260	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2261-2266	100%
100%	100%	Incus 2267-	

MEDIUMS (\$ to 15 years)			
125%	100%	Incus 1991-2002	111%
125%	100%	Incus 2003-2010	100%
125%	100%	Incus 2011-2020	100%
125%	113%	Incus 2021-2030	113%
125%	80%	Incus 2031-2040	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2041-2050	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2051-2060	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2061-2070	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2071-2080	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2081-2090	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2091-2100	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2101-2110	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2111-2120	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2121-2130	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2131-2140	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2141-2150	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2151-2160	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2161-2170	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2171-2180	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2181-2190	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2191-2200	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2201-2210	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2211-2220	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2221-2230	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2231-2240	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2241-2250	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2251-2260	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2261-2270	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2271-2280	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2281-2290	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2291-2300	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2301-2310	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2311-2320	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2321-2330	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2331-2340	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2341-2350	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2351-2360	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2361-2370	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2371-2380	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2381-2390	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2391-2400	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2401-2410	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2411-2420	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2421-2430	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2431-2440	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2441-2450	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2451-2460	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2461-2470	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2471-2480	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2481-2490	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2491-2500	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2501-2510	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2511-2520	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2521-2530	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2531-2540	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2541-2550	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2551-2560	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2561-2570	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2571-2580	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2581-2590	96%
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125%	80%	Incus 2641-2650	96%
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125%	80%	Incus 2691-2700	96%
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125%	80%	Incus 2751-2760	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2761-2770	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2771-2780	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2781-2790	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2791-2800	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2801-2810	96%
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125%	80%	Incus 2851-2860	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2861-2870	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2871-2880	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2881-2890	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2891-2900	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2901-2910	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2911-2920	96%
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125%	80%	Incus 2931-2940	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2941-2950	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2951-2960	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2961-2970	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2971-2980	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2981-2990	96%
125%	80%	Incus 2991-3000	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3001-3010	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3011-3020	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3021-3030	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3031-3040	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3041-3050	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3051-3060	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3061-3070	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3071-3080	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3081-3090	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3091-3100	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3101-3110	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3111-3120	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3121-3130	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3131-3140	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3141-3150	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3151-3160	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3161-3170	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3171-3180	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3181-3190	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3191-3200	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3201-3210	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3211-3220	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3221-3230	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3231-3240	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3241-3250	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3251-3260	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3261-3270	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3271-3280	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3281-3290	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3291-3300	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3301-3310	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3311-3320	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3321-3330	96%
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125%	80%	Incus 3341-3350	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3351-3360	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3361-3370	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3371-3380	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3381-3390	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3391-3400	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3401-3410	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3411-3420	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3421-3430	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3431-3440	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3441-3450	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3451-3460	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3461-3470	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3471-3480	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3481-3490	96%
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125%	80%	Incus 3511-3520	96%
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125%	80%	Incus 3771-3780	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3781-3790	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3791-3800	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3801-3810	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3811-3820	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3821-3830	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3831-3840	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3841-3850	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3851-3860	96%
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125%	80%	Incus 3871-3880	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3881-3890	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3891-3900	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3901-3910	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3911-3920	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3921-3930	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3931-3940	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3941-3950	96%
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125%	80%	Incus 3981-3990	96%
125%	80%	Incus 3991-4000	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4001-4010	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4011-4020	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4021-4030	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4031-4040	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4041-4050	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4051-4060	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4061-4070	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4071-4080	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4081-4090	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4091-4100	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4101-4110	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4111-4120	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4121-4130	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4131-4140	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4141-4150	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4151-4160	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4161-4170	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4171-4180	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4181-4190	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4191-4200	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4201-4210	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4211-4220	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4221-4230	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4231-4240	96%
125%	80%	Incus 4241-4250</	

	1480	1500	1520	1540	1560	1580	1600	1620	1640	1660	1680	1700	1720	1740	1760	1780	1800	1820	1840	1860	1880	1900	1920	1940	1960	1980	2000	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100	2120	2140	2160	2180	2200	2220	2240	2260	2280	2300	2320	2340	2360	2380	2400	2420	2440	2460	2480	2500	2520	2540	2560	2580	2600	2620	2640	2660	2680	2700	2720	2740	2760	2780	2800	2820	2840	2860	2880	2900	2920	2940	2960	2980	3000	3020	3040	3060	3080	3100	3120	3140	3160	3180	3200	3220	3240	3260	3280	3300	3320	3340	3360	3380	3400	3420	3440	3460	3480	3500	3520	3540	3560	3580	3600	3620	3640	3660	3680	3700	3720	3740	3760	3780	3800	3820	3840	3860	3880	3900	3920	3940	3960	3980	4000	4020	4040	4060	4080	4100	4120	4140	4160	4180	4200	4220	4240	4260	4280	4300	4320	4340	4360	4380	4400	4420	4440	4460	4480	4500	4520	4540	4560	4580	4600	4620	4640	4660	4680	4700	4720	4740	4760	4780	4800	4820	4840	4860	4880	4900	4920	4940	4960	4980	5000	5020	5040	5060	5080	5100	5120	5140	5160	5180	5200	5220	5240	5260	5280	5300	5320	5340	5360	5380	5400	5420	5440	5460	5480	5500	5520	5540	5560	5580	5600	5620	5640	5660	5680	5700	5720	5740	5760	5780	5800	5820	5840	5860	5880	5900	5920	5940	5960	5980	6000	6020	6040	6060	6080	6100	6120	6140	6160	6180	6200	6220	6240	6260	6280	6300	6320	6340	6360	6380	6400	6420	6440	6460	6480	6500	6520	6540	6560	6580	6600	6620	6640	6660	6680	6700	6720	6740	6760	6780	6800	6820	6840	6860	6880	6900	6920	6940	6960	6980	7000	7020	7040	7060	7080	7100	7120	7140	7160	7180	7200	7220	7240	7260	7280	7300	7320	7340	7360	7380	7400	7420	7440	7460	7480	7500	7520	7540	7560	7580	7600	7620	7640	7660	7680	7700	7720	7740	7760	7780	7800	7820	7840	7860	7880	7900	7920	7940	7960	7980	8000	8020	8040	8060	8080	8100	8120	8140	8160	8180	8200	8220	8240	8260	8280	8300	8320	8340	8360	8380	8400	8420	8440	8460	8480	8500	8520	8540	8560	8580	8600	8620	8640	8660	8680	8700	8720	8740	8760	8780	8800	8820	8840	8860	8880	8900	8920	8940	8960	8980	9000	9020	9040	9060	9080	9100	9120	9140	9160	9180	9200	9220	9240	9260	9280	9300	9320	9340	9360	9380	9400	9420	9440	9460	9480	9500	9520	9540	9560	9580	9600	9620	9640	9660	9680	9700	9720	9740	9760	9780	9800	9820	9840	9860	9880	9900	9920	9940	9960	9980	10000
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5/1% 2010	8%	+	6.79
9% 2011	11%	+	7.76
9% 2012	11%	+	7.72
5.5% 2008-12	8%	+	6.34
8% 2013	10%	+	7.42
7% 2012-15	11%	+	7.37
8% 2015	10%	+	7.36
5.5% 2017	11%	+	7.51
2020	10%	+	7.27
2021	4%	+	7.19
2%	3%	+	7.25
2%	5%	+	7.40
Increased inflation at:			10%
8.4% 1978	11%	+	
8.2% 2001	10%	+	2.91
8.2% 2002	10%	+	3.17
9.4% 2004	11%	+	3.17
9.4% 2004	11%	+	3.26

123	181	181	50	4	47
124	181	181	50	4	47
125	181	181	50	4	47
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193	181	181	50	4	47
194	181	181	50	4	47

1991	101% Sales Tax	100%	7	9
1191	101% Sales Tax	367	1	1
1291	101% Sales Tax	719	1	1
2029	75% South State	2000		
7349	75% South West	6671	2	2
7549	75% South West	6671	2	2
7115	50% Hwy. 101	624	1	1
6049	50% Hwy. 101	3001	1	1
369	25 Hwy. 101	3004	4	6

101%	84% Almost Rural	102%	0.6	0.6
701%	70% City	206	2	2
702%	70% City	206	2	2
703%	70% City	206	2	2
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	72%	65% Southern	Votes	72%	..	23	15.6
510	410	Southern Fr	Irish	474	-	1	0.7 92.8
60%	24	Innocent!		24			

Source: FT Information

Price of speculation; E dividend; E export; A Ex rights
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Council liable for damage caused by roadside tree

Hurst and Another v Hampshire County Council

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Morritt and Sir John Balfour

[Judgment June 19]

Where a tree grew in the verge of a highway which had been dedicated to the public the highway authority were liable for damage to a building adjacent to the highway caused by the roots of the tree.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, dismissing an appeal by Hampshire County Council from an award by Mr Recorder Meggison, at Southampton County Court, of £78,823 to the plaintiffs, Steven John Hurst and Jane Hurst, for damage to their house.

Mr Simon Russen for the council; Mr Dermot O'Brien, QC and Mr John McDonald for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the plaintiffs were the owners of a semi-detached house at 213 Highlands Road, Fareham, built in 1984; the other part of the building was numbered 211. The council were the highway authority for Highlands Road.

In the verge of the highway outside the boundaries of 211 and 213 was an oak tree. It was between 150 and 160 years old. If the dividing line between 211 and 213 was extended out to the centre of the road, the tree was on the 211 side of the line.

Highlands Road was an ancient highway originally maintained by the inhabitants at large which subsequently vested in the council or their predecessors. It was accepted that the tree was planted and grew after the highway had been dedicated to the public.

In 1984, during a very dry summer, the plaintiffs' house began to suffer serious structural damage. It was the plaintiffs' case that the damage was caused by subsidence due to moisture extraction or dehydration of the clay soil by the roots of the tree.

The council maintained that the damage was caused by rehydration of the soil resulting in heave rather than subsidence. The recorder resolved the issue in favour of the plaintiffs and there was no appeal on that point.

The recorder also found that the damage to the plaintiffs' house was reasonably foreseeable by the council. Following the decisions of the Court of Appeal in *Leakey v National Trust* (1980) 1 QB 485 and *Solomon v Hampshire County Council* (1984) 78 LGR 449, that was a necessary precondition in liability in nuisance on the part of the council.

The recorder did not find that the council owned the tree. He found them liable in nuisance and negligence, seemingly on the basis that they had power to maintain the tree and did so maintain it.

The power to maintain was contained in section 9(1) of the Highways Act 1980. There was evidence that between about 1986 and 1984 the council pruned the tree from time to time.

Mr Russen submitted that section 9(1) provided a power only to maintain the tree. In the absence of a claim based on section 9(6) of the Act he said that there was no statutory duty to cut and mere failure to do so did not give rise to liability at common law.

He submitted that the tree was not the property of the council, but of the owner of the subsoil. He relied on the presumption that the owner of land adjoining the high-

way owned the soil up to the mid-line of the highway.

However, it was clear that the tree was in fact on the 211 side of the projected boundary between the two houses, so that if anyone other than the council was the owner it was the owner of 211.

The primary submission of Mr O'Brien was that under the statutory provisions whereby the highway was vested in the council and their predecessors the property in the tree also vested in them so that they became owners of the tree, or, alternatively, sufficient property in it to found liability for nuisance.

Mr O'Brien's alternative submission was that the power to maintain contained in section 9(1), coupled with the exercise of that power by pruning the tree for at least 30 years, demonstrated sufficient control over the tree to found an action in nuisance.

Before considering the relevant statutory provisions, it was convenient for the purpose of the judgment to divide trees growing in the highway into three categories:

- 1 Those planted and growing in the highway before dedication or adoption of the highway by the inhabitants at large or the highway authority: pre-adoption trees.
- 2 Those planted and growing in the highway after dedication or adoption, but not planted under statutory powers: post-adoption trees. The tree in the present case was a post-adoption tree.
- 3 Those planted under express statutory powers granted to the highway authority: planted trees.

Section 96 of the 1980 Act provided: "(1) ... a highway maintainable at the public expense by them, plant trees ... and may ... do anything expedient for the

maintenance ... of trees ... planted ... whether or not by them, in such a highway."

His Lordship said that that power to maintain trees, which included the power to prune them, related to all three categories.

Subsection (1) provided: "No tree ... shall be planted ... or ... allowed to remain ... so as to be a nuisance ... to the owner ... of premises adjacent to the highway."

That subsection applied only to planted trees.

Mr Justice Tudor Evans was in error in *Russell v Barnes London Borough Council* (1984) 83 LGR 152, 170-171 where he said that the predecessor of that subsection applied to all trees, whether or not planted by the highway authority.

So far as planted trees were concerned it was clear that the highway authority would be liable under section 96(1) if the roots of the planted tree caused deterioration to the soil and consequent subsidence of a building adjacent to the highway.

In his Lordship's opinion, the authorities also showed that a sufficient property in post-adoption trees also vested in the highway authority to ground an action for nuisance both at the suit of the user of the highway who was injured as a result of the dangerous condition of the tree and also at the suit of an adjoining owner who suffered damage to person or property, provided the damage was reasonably foreseeable.

His Lordship referred to *Turner v Ringwood* (1870) LR 9 QJ 418; *Cowdell v Charlton* (1878) 4 QBD 104 and *Stillwell v New Windsor Corporation* (1932) 2 Ch 153.

Mr Russen submitted that if the plaintiffs' submission was correct

section 96(1) was otiose because the highway authority would in any event be under a potential liability in nuisance to road users and adjoining owners and occupiers at common law. Section 96(1) imposed a liability, he submitted, which would not otherwise exist at common law.

But, in his Lordship's judgment, Mr O'Brien's answer to that submission was correct. Section 96(1) had been inserted to guard against an argument which might otherwise be based upon the principle in *Geddis v Barr Reservoir* (1878) 3 App Cas 430, namely, that if the statutory power to plant was exercised without negligence the highway authority would not be liable if the consequence of the growth and development of the tree resulted in nuisance.

There was no doubt that, so far as post-adoption trees were concerned, the property in them vested in the highway authority for all purposes.

If they were planted, albeit not under statutory power, they were planted for highway purposes in that part of the soil which plainly vested in them. If they were self-seeded, again they were seeded in that part of the highway which vested in the local authority.

If as they matured their roots encroached into the subsoil which remained the property of the adjoining owner, his Lordship did not see how that made the trees the property of the owner of the subsoil.

That was sufficient to dispose of the appeal in the plaintiffs' favour, but both counsel had urged upon the court the view that there was no logical distinction between pre and post-adoption trees so far as the liability of the highway au-

thority to adjoining owners was concerned.

Mr Russen relied on the decision of Mr Justice Tudor Evans in *Russell v Barnes LBC* and a decision of his Lordship in *Bridges v Harrow LBC* (1988) 260 EG 284 that the highway authority was not liable for post-adoption trees. For the reasons already given his Lordship rejected that submission.

Mr O'Brien submitted that both decisions were wrong. He pointed out that even in relation to pre-adoption trees the highway authority were liable in nuisance to users of the highway. The law extended to users of the highway the same protection in relation to nuisance on the highway as an occupier of land enjoyed in relation to a nuisance causing physical damage emanating from the adjoining land.

If there was any logical basis in the distinction it depended upon the fiction that in the case of a pre-adoption tree there was a reservation from the public's right to pass over the full extent of the highway that part of the surface on which the tree was growing and that the owner of the land at dedication intended to reserve the tree from the dedication.

There were no authorities binding upon the court which precluded the court from holding that pre-adoption trees vested in the highway authority for all purposes. The time had come when the courts should adopt a consistent approach to all highway trees other than those already subject to the statutory scheme now contained in section 96 of the 1980 Act.

Lord Justice Morritt and Sir John Balfour agreed.

Solicitors: Mr P. C. B. Robertson, Alresford; C. A. Norris, Southampton.

Judge can form own opinion

Regina v Smith (Leonard)

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Roush and Mr Justice Maurice Kay

[Judgment June 9]

A judge considering the sentence to be passed on a stalker after an 11-day trial was entirely justified in dissenting from reports of psychiatric opinion whether the offender, if at liberty, would present a continuing threat to the victim.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held when reducing from 30 to 21 months the sentence on Peter Leonard Smith, aged 52, imposed at Knightsbridge Crown Court by Judge Richard Walker on conviction for assault occasioning actual bodily harm on the victim, contrary to section 47 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 by conducting an obsessive pursuit of the victim from 1992 to 1996.

Mrs Pearl Humberstone, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Aftab Jafferjee, present by direction of the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the question for the judge in sentencing was whether the threshold for a custodial sentence had been crossed bearing in mind the appellant's conduct had been persisted in for a long period, causing injury to the victim's mental and physical health and that he had persisted despite many warnings and opportunities to desist.

Mrs Humberstone accepted that the custody threshold had been crossed and their Lordships had no hesitation in agreeing.

His Lordship referred to *R v Burston* (The Times July 30, 1996; [1997] 1 Cr App R 104) and *R v Constanza* (The Times March 31, 1997) and said that Mrs Humberstone relied on the present case being genuine and loving and also that the appellant had been suffering from a depressive illness while the events were taking place.

She also relied on psychiatric reports on the appellant and, in particular, on the report that the appellant did not represent a continuing threat to the victim. She submitted in the grounds of appeal that the judge was wrong to take a different view.

Their Lordships were of the very clear opinion that the judge was entirely justified in taking the view that he did, even if that meant some divergence from the psychiatric opinions before him.

It was then a matter for the courts to receive with great respect any opinion expressed by any qualified medical practitioner. On technical questions turning on issues of medical expertise or diagnosis a judge would be very unlikely to dissent from such an opinion.

The question in this case, however, was whether the appellant was likely, if at liberty, to represent a continuing threat to the victim. The judge had correctly held that that was something on which he was much better placed to form an opinion than the doctors. Accordingly, their Lordships would make no criticism of his approach.

Starting from the position that a custodial sentence was appropriate, the sentence had two elements as the judge had pointed out: (i) punishment for the conduct persisted in over a period to the grave injury to the victim; (ii) to afford a significant measure of protection to the victim.

It was relevant to bear in mind that the appellant was driven by his obsession, which he appeared to be unable to control. That did not relieve him of responsibility for what he had done but it mitigated the gravity of the offence to some extent.

So far as concerned appropriate period of protection of the victim, it was important to bear in mind that in contrast to *Burston* the present was the appellant's first experience of imprisonment.

One had reason to hope that the experience might have the effect of bringing him to his senses and that conduct of the kind complained of simply could not be tolerated or accepted. A significant custodial sentence was called for.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, London.

Correction

In *Marshall v NM Financial Management Ltd* (The Times June 24) the unsuccessful appeal was brought by the defendant, NM Financial Management, represented by Mr Mark Cran, QC and Mr Neil Calver. The plaintiff, Mr Marshall, was represented by Mr Mark Barnes, QC and Mr Andrew Lemon.

Cutting time of rehearing

Northumberland and Durham Property Trust Ltd v London Rent Assessment Committee and Others

When remitting a case to a tribunal for rehearing where a respondent had conceded a material ground of appeal, a court was not bound to hear full argument on every other ground of appeal to comply with Order 55, rule 7(5) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Mr Justice Latham so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division on May 23 when

allowing an appeal by the appellant landlord under section 11 of the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992 against the respondent's determination of a fair rent of the appellant's premises.

The appellant had submitted that despite the respondent's concession that two of the 13 grounds of appeal had been made out and that the matter should be remitted to the tribunal, the court was obliged under Order 55 to hear full argument on all 13 grounds in order to provide the tribunal with its opinion.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the

court had the power, in the exercise of its inherent jurisdiction, to decline to hear argument beyond that necessary to determine the appropriate form of relief.

In exercising that discretion the court should have in mind the wider interest of the proper administration of justice, namely saving time and costs, and should be slow to permit an appellant to pursue its other grounds of appeal unless it could properly be said that it was necessary in the interests of justice for the court to determine and give its opinion upon those grounds.

Untrue letter fraudulent

Henry Ansbacher & Co Ltd v Binks Stern (a Firm)

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Sir Patrick Russell

[Judgment June 24]

A decision by a court of first instance acquitting a person of fraud could not be overturned on appeal except on the clearest grounds.

But a finding that a solicitor at the request of his client made a written representation to a bank that the solicitor knew to be untrue had inevitably led to the conclusion that it was made fraudulently.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the bank, Henry Ansbacher & Co Ltd, from the judgment of Mr Justice Knox in May 1995 in which he had held that a misrepresentation made in a letter by Mr W. R. Binks, then senior partner of a firm of solicitors, Binks Stern, at the request of Mr Roger Levitt, was not made fraudulently.

Miss Barbara Dohmann, QC and Mr T. A. G. Beazley for the bank; Mr Alan Steinfield, QC and Mr Michael King for the solicitors.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that on September 12, 1990, Mr Binks, at the request of Mr Levitt, wrote to the bank.

The letter was received at a time when the bank was contemplating lending some £2.5 million to Mr Levitt on the security of what it understood to be two uncompleted contracts with General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc and Commercial Union Life Assurance Co Ltd.

The bank's case was that the letter contained a clear representation that Mr Binks was acting for Mr Levitt and that the contracts had not been completed. The true position was that they had been completed, their security value was nil and that Mr Binks, who had a close business relationship with Mr Levitt, knew that the contracts had been completed.

Relying partly on that letter the bank had made the loan to Mr Levitt. Within three months Mr Levitt was exposed as a fraudulent rogue and in his ensuing bankruptcy the bank lost the money it had lent.

The judge had dismissed the

bank's action for fraudulent misrepresentation. He was satisfied that Mr Binks' representation that the share sale agreement had not been completed was made fraudulently. He classified Mr Binks' conduct as "very gravely mistaken".

Miss Dohmann effectively assigned the case to the category described by Lord Jenkins in *Akerhielm v De Mare* (1959) AC 789, 806 in which it was impossible to hold that Mr Binks honestly understood the representation to bear the meaning claimed by him and honestly believed it in that sense to be true.

Mr Steinfield argued, correctly, that that submission could only be accepted if the court was convinced that the high test affirmed by the Privy Council in *Akerhielm* (at p806) was satisfied.

He added, again correctly, that the satisfaction of that high test was made all the harder where the effective defendant was a solicitor aged 68, the senior partner in his firm and one who had practised for over 25 years without the slightest blemish on his character.

However, someone who represented that he was acting for another in relation to a binding agreement for sale, the representation being untrue to his knowledge and influenced by the other's request not to reveal that completion had taken place, could only intend to convey, or be willing to give the impression that the agreement had not been completed.

Indeed, the judge himself recognised that to accept intentions described by a solicitor's letter on a subject without mentioning a particular fact when one did not know the context was perilous and that the line between not mentioning a fact on the one hand and giving a misleading impression while not mentioning a fact on the other hand became doubly perilous when the context was not known.

The conclusion was that Mr Binks intended to convey, or at least was willing to give the impression that the share sale agreements had not been completed.

In arriving at that conclusion the court had faithfully sought to apply the high test required. There were the clearest grounds for setting aside the judge's decision.

Out of natural sympathy for the predicament in which Mr Binks

'Zinc' use limited

Conran v Meen Fiddler Holdings Ltd and Others

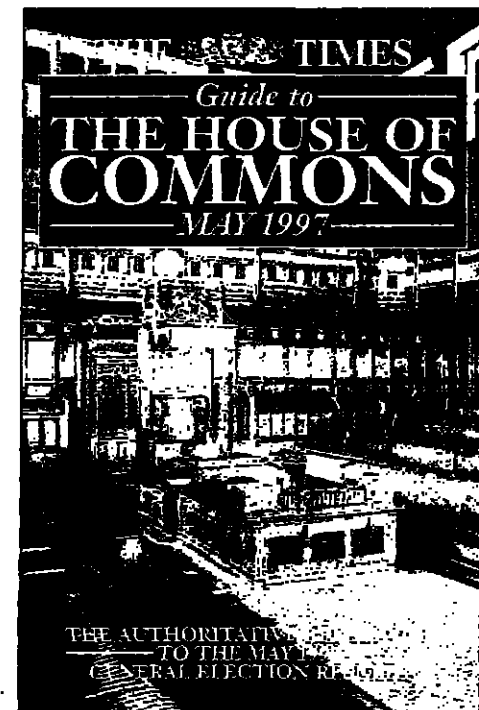
Both the use of "Zn", the chemical symbol for the element zinc, and the use of "ZN", because plainly close to it, as well as the use of "SINC" or "SYNC", would amount to infringements of the trade mark "ZINC", registered under No 2033220 on June 2, 1995, in respect of planning, design and interior design of restaurants, cafes, cafeterias, bistros, wine bars, and so on.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in the Chancery Division on

May 6 when in granting the plaintiff, Sir Terence Conran, summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court for an injunction restraining Meen Fiddler Holdings Ltd, The Zinc Bar Ltd and John Vincent Power, a director of both companies, from infringing that mark, whether by the use, in relation to bars or restaurants or bar restaurants, of the words and marks "ZINCBAR", "ZINC", "SINC", "SYNC", "ZN", "Zn" or any other word of mark colourably similar thereto, or otherwise howsoever.

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Holy vacuity!
Despite the
technical wizardry,
*Batman &
Robin* is thin
on real thrills



... but *Love Jones* is a pleasant surprise: a warm, intelligent movie about inner-city youth

A rebel with a cause is depicted in the absorbing docu-drama *Frantz Fanon: Black Skin White Mask*



... and the ICA
also revives
Gillo Pontecorvo's
superb 1965
epic, *The Battle
of Algiers*

Wholly ludicrous, Caped Crusader

When the time comes, as it must, for these to be treated, the film falls apart. Batman and Robin quarrel about trust. Batman fears for the dying Alfred, his childhood saviour. Then the butler's English niece (Alicia Silverstone) arrives, although she acts and speaks more like a motorcycle



George Clooney, Uma Thurman and Chris O'Donnell compare costumes in a scene from *Batman & Robin*, the latest in the money-spinning series

and psychiatrist, wrote his book *Black Skin White Mask* as a graduate thesis, worked at a psychiatric hospital in Algeria, and joined the country's National Liberation Front. His experiences gave him particular insight into the mindset of racism and colonialism, and it is those that help to shape

merge with interviews with family members and cultural theorists. Newsreel footage, fictional film snatches, archive radio broadcasts are all blended in. Julien may have fallen down when directing actors in his fictional feature *Young Soul Rebels*, but he is a wizard at seducing us with socio-historical essays.

Even when shooting talking

It is not a pretty picture. But compared to recent movies about Northern Ireland Pontecorvo is notably evenhanded about his warring parties. His heart is with the Algerian people, but he accords French colonials their degree of humanity, particularly Colonel Mathieu, the coolly intelligent paratroop leader bent on destroying the revolution's command.



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SNAP VERDICT

‘By far the best’

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases...

■ BATMAN & ROBIN

Damian Samuels, 20: Arnie. Uma. Chris and George provide more light entertainment from the City of Gotham — all Batfans will be relieved that Val Kilmer is sticking to Simon Templar.

Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 18: The real Batman has arrived! George Clooney is perfectly cast. His Caped Crusader has strength and sensitivity.

Sarah Crook, 18: A rather disappointing effort from this all-star cast. It was more special effects than plot — greater emphasis was needed on camp gays.

Tom Hurlers, 17: When Uma Thurman arrived on screen, my temperature soared. This fourth instalment in the *Batman* series is by far the best.

■ **LOVE JONES**
Damian: *A Friends for the big screen. A nice and witty comedy about relationships — but*

Leslie: This funny and intelligent script combines with great acting. It made for a charm-filled couple of hours.

Sarah: A nice contrast to *Batman*. If you're on a date and your partner has half a brain, choose this one. A great Nineties romantic comedy.

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Sinopoli makes sure the orchestra is the hero of the piece. But it also has a heroine and Alessandra Marc, a recent Chrysothemis under Barenboim, faces powerful competition. She sings with fine fury but cannot match the

pure animal lust for revenge that Nilsson brought with Solti or the feminine insights of Behrens under Ozawa.

Her two female partners are distinguished: Deborah Voigt turns Chrysothemis into a creature lost in the emotional turmoil around her, and Hanna Schwarz is one of the maddest and spookiest Klytemnestras on disc. But Samuel Ramey is oddly cast as Orestes; strange, too, that Siegfried Jerusalem should have accepted the small and ungrateful part of Aegisthus.

Barry Millington

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ic in this country. Daniele Gatti has not hitherto featured much in the record catalogues. Now that he has been signed exclusively by BMG Conifer, all that is to change, though Gatti has indicated that he will be tempted into the studio only to make what he deems to be "necessary" recordings.

The first such is of Respighi's three Roman symphonic poems: not exactly rare repertoire, one might think, but the justification is that the works were written for the orchestra that Gatti conducts here, that of the Santa Cecilia Academy in Rome. That orchestra in fact gave the first performances of *Fountains and Pines* (in 1917 and 1924 respectively) and now makes its first complete recording of the trilogy.

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Both the playing and the recorded sound are stunning. The triumphal processions of the Trevi Fountain at Midday and the Pines of the Appian Way are properly thrilling.

Hilary Finch

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In Bruckberg's *Chromatic Fantasy* the chorale shapes a sour-sweet slow movement, preceded by the hitherto unperformed and buoyant opening, and followed by a rather schoolmasterly Fugue written especially for the Brodskys. This is the first recording of Bruckberg's Quartet in its entirety. Chorale as coda characterises Stravinsky's single-movement *Concerto* of 1920; its music pulsing between beguiling transparency, motor energy and stasis.

Kurt Weill is represented by one of his early abstract works, the 1923 String Quartet No 1 Op 8, in which the gravely beautiful opening, reminiscent of Schoenberg, yields at last to a long, unquiet *Choralephantasia*.

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■ VISUAL ART



Spectator as creator: the latest in interactive art goes on show at the Barbican

■ THEATRE



Past and present collide to no great effect in *The Blue Garden* at the Warehouse in Croydon

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ MUSIC



A Westminster Abbey concert launches an appeal to raise funds for a Handel museum

■ TOMORROW



The new album from Prodigy reviewed; Alice Cooper and Teenage Fan Club interviewed

Glorious singing to raise a roof

OF MORE than 150 museums dedicated to individual composers throughout Europe, few are to be found in England, and none in London. Hence the interest in creating a Handel House in the Mayfair dwelling — at 25, Brook Street — where he lived for more than 30 years. This performance of Handel's last oratorio, *Jephtha*, was mounted in aid of the Handel House Trust, with the highest ticket prices reflecting the charitable nature of the event.

Westminster Abbey was pretty well full, although those seated outside the central core experienced little more than a wash of sound, albeit a glorious one. It is worth remembering that Handel's oratorios were originally performed in theatres, where the impact would undoubtedly have been more immediate, especially as regards the audibility of the text.

In a fascinating essay in the programme book, Ruth Smith summarised the ways in which the audience of Handel's day would have responded to the Reverend Thomas Morell's libretto, and the concerns that lay behind his adaptation of the story of the Israelite leader who sacrifices his only daughter's life through a rash promise to an apparently unforgiving God. Morell's moderately "happy ending" scenario (*Iphis*, the daughter, is not condemned to death but to perpetual virginity) creates problems of credibility which could have seriously undermined the drama of the oratorio were it not for the strength of Handel's music, particularly the im-

CONCERTS

Jephtha
Westminster Abbey

pressive, unpredictable choruses.

The title role was taken by the tenor Nigel Robson, who has already sung it many times for John Eliot Gardiner. He has evolved his own, very individual interpretation which is never less than unsettling and often memorable for its insight into the equivocal character of Jephtha. Robson's rendition of the celebrated accompanied recitative, *Deeper and deeper still*, was dramatically powerful; indeed, rhetoric was all, sometimes creating problems of ensemble, sometimes covering technical limitations, but deeply compelling.

Robson was supported by highly polished playing from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the well-disciplined Abbey choir and a starry team of soloists, all of whom brought almost equally strong interpretations to bear on their roles. Emma Kirkby was a fresh-voiced but increasingly wise and serious *Iphis*. Della Jones a too often chesty but nevertheless appropriately intense Storge and David Wilson-Johnson a vocally authoritative Zebul. Michael Chance, as Hamor, phrased exquisitely. Martin Neary was clearly most at ease with the choir at full pelt in those remarkable choruses.

TESS KNIGHTON

Kindred spirits

Dumay/Pires
Stationers' Hall

IN THE first of two programmes for the City of London Festival, Augustin Dumay and the Portuguese-born Maria Joao Pires were a duo of strong and appealing character. They were perhaps at their best in the final work, an account of Beethoven's often startling Violin Sonata Op 30 No 2, that found them responsive to one another on equal terms — even if Beethoven did call it a Sonata for Piano and Violin, rather than the other way around.

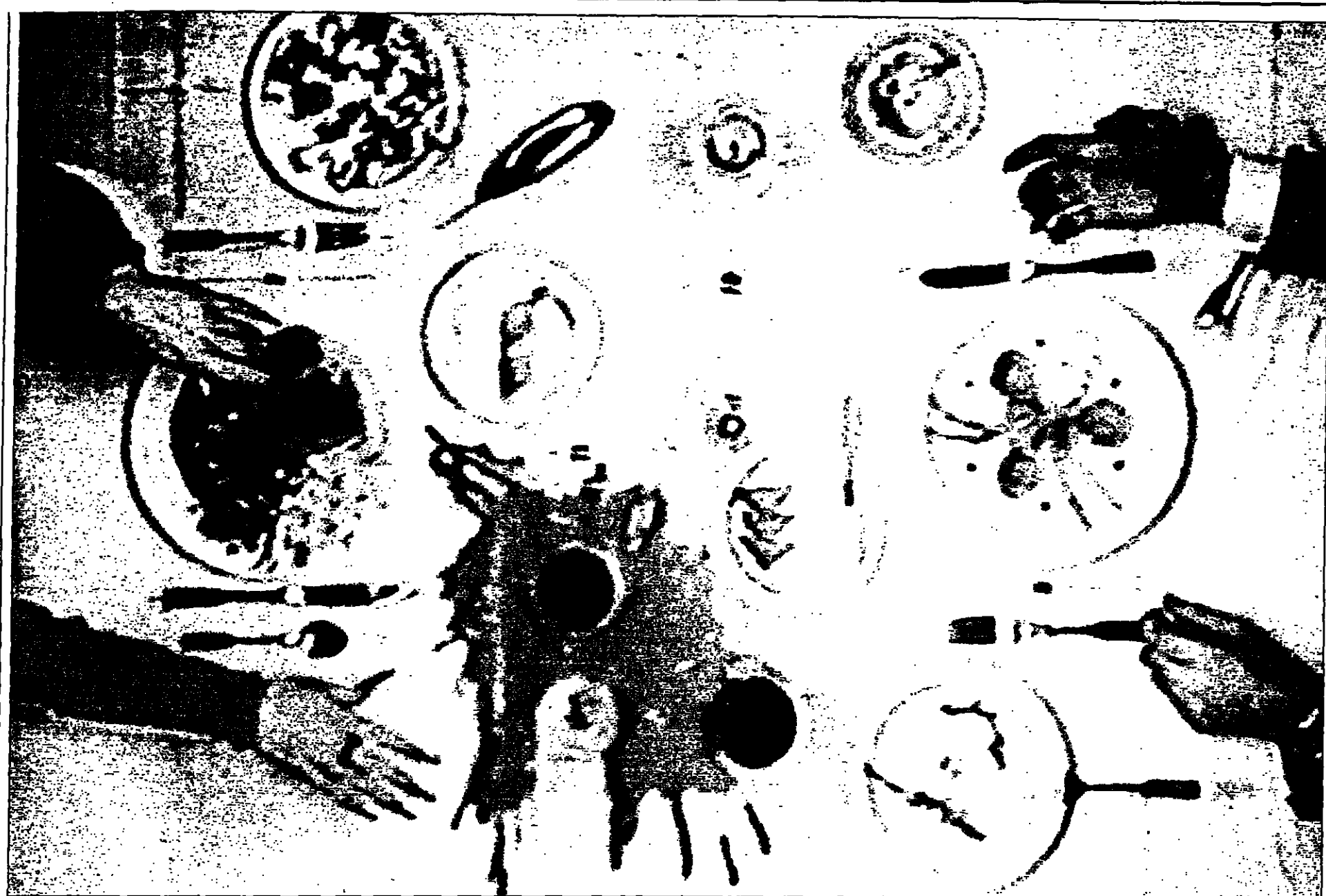
They plunged into a vehement and passionate account of the opening movement, as if concerned for us to know that the composer was here exploring new territory. Rhythmic stresses, at first peremptory, became warmly expressive in the Adagio, and then a literally off-beat stimulus in the Scherzo. The finale was forcefully driven, but always imbued with a sense of purpose and a spirit of exhilaration.

In the warmth and elegance of this ancient livery hall, a perfect dimension for chamber music, the pianist is able to

sound lyrical as well as forceful and the violinist made much of his clear articulation. All the more unexpected, then, that Debussy's Sonata earlier in the programme should have sounded strangely cursory, without taking enough account of the music's rapidly shifting moods and fragility of character.

At the outset, though, the Three Romances, Op 94, of Schumann found the performers in ideal rapport to realise the music's eloquent feeling in a gentle association of careful violin and beautifully shaded piano. The Second Romance came across as a song without words rising to a passionate proclamation and then reverting to the opening. And, for good measure, there was Ravel's *Tzigane* to display a spirited virtuosity before the interval was taken.

NOEL GOODWIN



Dinner for two with poison in mind: visitors to the Barbican show can ring the changes with the unseen diners in *Indigestion*, a video enigma by Diller and Scofidio (1995)

Games with a magic edge

VISUAL ART: Of mice, men and machines — Isabel Carlisle on a show at the Barbican that plays ingenious tricks with computers and reality

LAST autumn the Barbican Art Gallery mounted an exhibition which went largely unreviewed in the national press. As a kaleidoscope of the style essentials of urban youth culture *Jam* was hard to pin down, but immensely popular — of 40,000 visitors, 68 per cent were aged 15 to 24. Not so much an exhibition as an event, it pulled together fashion (including Alexander McQueen), club music, design in all its computer-age manifestations, and magazines such as *The Face* and *i-D*. *Jam* was about a scene on the move, retaining its subversiveness by being one jump ahead of the talent-hungry corporate giants, and it put the Barbican on the map for a new, young audience.

Serious Games looks set to pull the *Jam* crowd back in. It takes us into another rapidly developing cutting-edge world, this time of art, interaction and technology. It is both the limitation and the excitement of these works that they come into being only through human intervention: eye con-

tact is not enough. High claims have been made for interactive art and art generated by computers and by virtual reality — principally that they make us rethink what art is all about. *Serious Games* has picked the best of the artists working in these new media, and it becomes clear that the most successful are those who deliver what human beings have always wanted from art: insight, ideas, beauty and magic.

This exhibition is not just for computer whizzes: there are clear instructions on how to use computer mice and trackballs to make the art happen. *Indigestion* by Diller and Scofidio uses video projection on to a flat table-top to create a dinner party for two where the host first blackmails and then poisons the guest. Only arms, hands and food are visible. The game is to change around the character stereotypes by pressing a but-

ton and listening to how they engage in conversation. A low-class masculine woman, for instance, sitting opposite a high-class effeminate man engage in subtly different verbal sparring from other combinations and permutations. It's ingenious, if finally stultifying — but then, that's life.

Bill Seaman's triple video projection on to a long black wall invites you to highlight words and then click on them, which in turn prompts new video images of urban landscapes and of a couple. The idea is to make a poem from assemblages of words. The problem is that the mind moves faster than this technology, and a very slow poem made by you with somebody else's words is frustrating. In contrast, making music with *Resonance of 4* by Toshio Iwai is captivating. By clicking on squares in the four chequer

boards projected on to the floor notes start to play up and down the scale. The idea is to end up with four-part harmony, if your fellow visitors are so inclined.

Rehearsal of Memory, made by the British artist Harwood in collaboration with patients of Ashworth Mental Hospital, is the most thoughtful work here. Images of the patients' naked bodies, made by pressing up against digital scanners and then projected on to a screen, are overlaid with single words like "prongs", or tattoos such as a skeletal Old Father Time.

There is autobiographical text as well that tells appalling stories of self-inflicted wounds. Clicking on a word, scar or tattoo triggers new stories, and the sounds of the voices mingle with those of water, heartbeats and of a shutter sliding violently in a door.

The one virtual reality work, *Osmose* by Char Davies, is likely to be the favourite "game" in the show. Putting on a special helmet and a sleeveless jacket with sensor pads controlled by breathing in or out, you enter a virtual 3-D world. Inspired by scuba

diving, the sensation is like flying, or falling through water in shimmering, crystalline surroundings. First engulfed in oak leaves, you drift down past a bare tree to a forest floor and then through it, so that looking up you see roots, pass streams of fireflies and then down again between huge panels of illuminated words. Virtual reality worlds created by artists have become far more sophisticated in the last few years. This one may still look crude, but achieves a suspension of disbelief that is literally transporting.

● *Serious Games* in collaboration with the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle is at the Barbican Art Gallery until Aug 17. To book for a session of *Osmose* telephone 0171 638 8391

THEATRE: In Leeds, 17th-century French comedy updated; a Peter Moffat premiere in Croydon

When Molière's *La Malade imaginaire* was presented here last year, in a fresh translation by Edward Kemp, the production appeared to have moved rather ponderously until the interval energised cast and audience alike.

This, as it happened, occurred at the theatre bar, not through judicious spiking of the drinks, but because the director, Toby Jones, whirled his actors through a performance of an early Molière comedy on a similar theme, spoken at lightning speed in ridiculously basic French. After that the second half of the main production whizzed past, and everyone had a good time.

Unfortunately for Jones's new production of *Don Juan*, no equivalent early treatment of the Lothario theme has survived in Molière's bottom drawer. And so the interval in *Don Juan* is occupied in the customary manner, leaving the story of the Don to fizzle out without a life-saving flippant.

A procession of visitors interrupts his preparation for supper with undramatic exclamations to mend his ways, and

Molière
à la
mode

Don Juan
West Yorkshire
Playhouse, Leeds

when he is finally carried off, ways unattended, by figures from a Mexican Day of the Dead procession. It is impossible to care, one way or the other. The episode of the poor man who won't be bribed to blaspheme succeeds in a tenth of the time that the other scenes take to fail.

Kemp has relocated the story to some early 20th-century, Latin American province which Angela Davies's arresting set makes into the last outpost of the civilised world. Against a turquoise sky, an isolated house tilts backwards against the raised

front of a giant sledge. Hauled forward and opened out, it becomes the room of an inn: strapped up like a parcel it can be shoved to the back of the stage.

And yet, interesting object though it is, and the excuse for jolly scene-changing, the quaintness creates a further impediment to the successful revival of such an archaic and ramshackle play. To place it in the homeland of magic realism is like icing a cake that is already iced: the Don's credo is realist, the nodding statue clearly magic, and for a few hours we are ready to embrace both.

The juvenile arguments for and against Heaven, Hell and the like can never work in a production where trousers have replaced buckle shoes and breeches. And so the response of Martin Marquez's suavely handsome Don to Sganarelle — a comically fawning performance by Patrick Brennan — is to rely on expressions of scorn, reserving passion for his tirade against, but somehow for, hypocrisy.

What the Jones/Kemp partnership does best is the idiomatic lingo for the peasant scenes, an alliterative mishmash of kids' talk and cod Spanish, which is all the funnier for being spoken as if it is the proper way to talk. Contrast this with the over-extended chase sequence accompanied by enough gunshots to settle a medium-sized revolution.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Poet cornered

The Blue Garden
Warehouse, Croydon

A YOUNG writer sits and stews in his old leather armchair. The trappings of privilege hang about his neck like an albatross. This is Raymond Apple, a romantic poet who inflicts his tortured thoughts on his doting wife, Sophie, in a barely coherent rumble. The Second World War rumbles beyond his reach, beyond his ability to land a commission.

When Peter Kramer, a German deserter, turns up bearing a copy of Raymond's poems, the mood of Peter Moffat's new but strangely mouldy play lifts, slightly. Sophie exposes Frank Kovak's sensitive German to something blue in her garden, her delphiniums. Kramer duly falls in love, and Robert Reynolds's Raymond looks on and applauds.

Let's leave that scenario and move 50 years forward. Here son William takes up where Raymond left off. He sits in the same armchair, aged 60 going on 98, while an obnoxious American biographer tries to pry the feeble tragedy of his father's life from a single poem. To say it gets more exciting than this would be overdoing it. We never hear the poem. The American journalist, played with charmless persistence by Jan Waters, tells us that her mother died in Auschwitz. Ted Craig's production seems to be crawling inch by inch towards some sort of incestuous revelation.

But Moffat deprives us of even that doubtful pleasure.

Occasionally, when Sophie speaks from behind a mesh screen, we get a sense of the past intruding on the present, giving the stifled William scenario a spin which it fails to take advantage of. The interest in how the small truths about the Apple love triangle are misinterpreted by the present is upstaged by a morbid fascination in whether Chris Matthews's repressed William and Waters's brash journalist are ever going to have a tumble in the delphiniums.

As the only one who gets a look in on both past and present, Amanda Mealing's self-possessed Sophie remains as inscrutable as the Mona Lisa. She smiles distantly throughout, presumably smug in the knowledge that she has better lines to say than anyone else. But extracting anything beautiful from this compost proves too much even for her. "He went out cawing and flapping like a smashed-in crow," says Sophie about her husband's last sighting. It must have been for fish and chips.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

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Enter your chance to drive a Mazda MX-5 Monza special edition car for a month. The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 and over. Entries close on May 1 this year, only 100 of the MX-5 Monza special edition have been produced. All are in British racing green and have exclusive Monza badging, a laurel emblem. Valued at £14,595, the MX-5 Monza special edition is based on the 1.6i version. It has an RDS radio cassette stereo sound system, is powered by a 1.6-litre 90bhp DOHC engine and gives a 0-62mph time of 10.6 secs.

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CHANGING TIMES

St. John's, Smith Square, SW1
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Bachmanov: Symphony No 2 in E minor
Vaughan Williams: Mass in G minor
Douglas Young World Premier
Box Office/CC: 0171 222 1061
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Looking forward, looking back

Jonathan Mirsky on an examination of Hong Kong's Chinese future and a recollection of its British past

HONG KONG
An Appointment with China
By Steve Yui-sang Tsang
1. B. Taurus, £10.95
ISBN 1 85004 311 6
HONG KONG
REMEMBERS
Edited by Sally Blyth and Ian Wotherspoon
OUP, £17.99
ISBN 0 19 557766 3

In early 1946 George Kitson, head of the Foreign Office's China Department and a man of imagination, wrote a 14 page position paper for the Cabinet on Hong Kong.

"Supposing the Chinese had taken [the Isle of Wight] against our will 100 years ago and covered it with pagodas, etc. and developed it by means which they had invented and we had not learned to use, doing all this for their own purposes, although talking a great deal about the material advantages to the United Kingdom and all the time emphasising the value of this haven of good government, a protection against insecurity, in the Isle of Wight. Even if they had created a heaven on earth in that small island we should have only one feeling about it. We should want it back."

Yes. Yet later that same year Mao Zedong said: "I am not interested in Hong Kong; the Communist Party is not interested in Hong Kong; it has never been the subject of any discussion amongst us." But Mao added: "Perhaps 10, 20 or 30 years hence we may ask for a discussion regarding its return..." Thirty-three years later, in 1979, as Mr Tsang records, Sir Murray MacLehose, then Hong Kong's Governor, asked a seemingly innocent question about the renewal of New Territories commercial leases and startled Deng Xiaoping into considering Hong Kong's retrocession. This story, long since confirmed by others in the room and only a few weeks ago by a senior Chinese official, gives the impression that the Chinese might have left the city alone for some undetermined period. I suspect this is unfair to Lord MacLehose.

I say that because of the brilliant title and its underlying concept of Mr Tsang's excellent book. (He has been the director of Oxford's Hong Kong project for more than ten years.) Since 1841 bits of Hong Kong had been ripped from China by force. But its greatest part, the New Territories, came into the Empire in the 1898 leasehold, foreshadowing the handover this July 1. "When the British acquired the New Territories in 1898," Mr Tsang writes, "they also unwittingly made an appointment with China over the future of Hong Kong as a whole."

Throughout the 20th century, Mr Tsang observes, the relative power of Britain and China slowly reversed: the turning point may have come in the rapid, brutal Japanese occupation of Hong Kong in 1941. The myth of white superiority vanished and even long-time champions of imperialism like Leo Amery at the India Office wondered if the Empire was finished. British officials in China were confronted by Chiang Kai-shek about the future of Hong Kong. But Chiang had to save himself from the Communists when the war ended and Hong Kong went to the back of the nationalist burner.

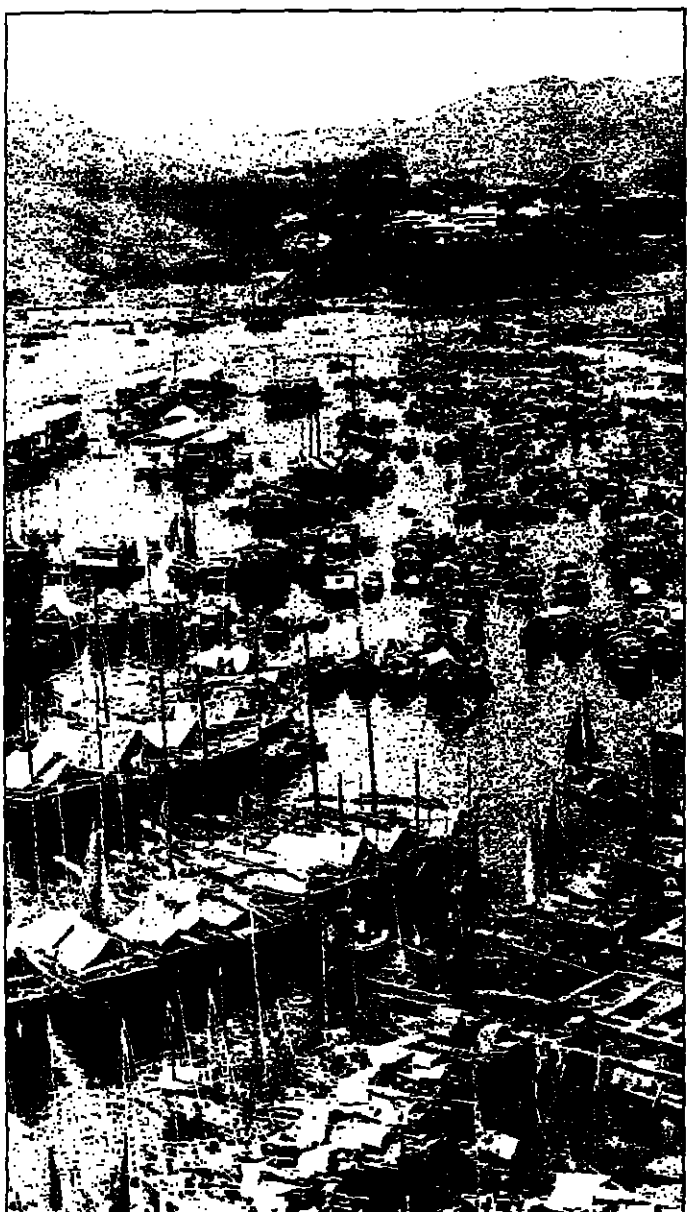
At first the Communists too, as seen in Mao's underplaying of Hong Kong's importance, concentrated on making their revolution. But by the late Seventies, as Mr Tsang shows, an irony of their post-Mao openness to the world was their growing determination

to retrieve Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

All this Mr Tsang tells well, anchoring his text until the late Seventies on official documents. Then an odd thing happens: because he has interviewed 40 leading British figures of the last phase of Hong Kong history and stored their stories away in some Oxford vault not to be used for years, Mr Tsang pretends he has put what he knows first-hand out of his mind. Therefore he appears to depend on secondary accounts, especially for British-Chinese negotiations since 1980, which are very cagey about their sources;

this makes it possible for those involved to deny the accounts. But Mr Tsang also makes sensitive use of the published accounts of Sir Percy Cradock, who directed the crucial negotiations of 1982-84 and likes to describe his manoeuvres as "finesses", and Xu Jiatun, a key Peking official in Hong Kong in the same period, who later defected to California and like Sir Percy portrays himself as cunning and wise.

His contacts in the city of his birth also enable Mr Tsang to describe better than anyone heretofore in English the workings of the super-secret "Hong Kong and Macau Work Committee of the Communist Party in Hong Kong" with its high-ranking status in Peking, its State Security mechanism, and its tentacles reaching into banking, commerce and united front organisations. (Hong Kong Government officials, including Governor Chris Patten, declined even to confirm, until last week, that this apparatus exists.) One pities men like Sir Percy as they confronted Chinese players in Beijing and Hong Kong who not only held all the cards but had marked them too.



In the junk harbour at Aberdeen, southwest Hong Kong, 1952

Mr Tsang has no illusions about Beijing's lack of understanding of what makes Hong Kong work, its suspicion and hatred of the colony's democrats, and of its intention to meddle. At least three of Chief Executive-designate Tung Chee-hwa's closest advisers are party members, he surmises. (Local Communist Party members bear this out.) But he is very hard too on Martin Lee, Hong Kong's much-admired democratic leader, for fanning Beijing's fear of subversion in Hong Kong, and is even harder on Governor Patten. The Governor's modest democratic legislation, which Mr Tsang says Mr Patten imagined Beijing would grudgingly accept instead of stalling, is "turned out to be as clear as waving a red flag at a bull one is trying to induce to leave a china shop."

Mr Tsang's conclusion is slightly modified gloom: in July, he contends, there will be an arranged marriage. The bride is miserable and her husband a bully. "It may be unrealistic for the wife to hope that her married life will be 'happy ever after', but it does not need to end in utter disaster."

Hong Kong Remembers is a potentially ghastly book, the kind with gag-making memories of the hazy recalled Raj. This one, however, by two long-term expatriates, is quite wonderful, stuffed with revealing interviews with Hong Kong people, Chinese and British, with long memories indeed, but far from rosy ones. There is one with a New Territories villager who fought the Japanese, joined the party, served as a minor official in north China for 30 years, and now lives in retirement in his native place, where he insists "Why should I be British? I was born in Hong Kong; I am Chinese. So is Hong Kong."

The best of the interviews — the ones with past Governors and with Mr Patten are unrevealing, assured, and conflicting — is with Anna Wu, a well-known lawyer and ex-member of the Legislative Council. Ms Wu, for years a celebrated fighter for civil rights, says the colonial government "would not tolerate a different point of view which might endanger its power and authority". The authorities, she says, formed a secret committee, which included Special Branch, to maintain surveillance of admirable people like herself and her husband, the journalist Frank Ching. (The Security Branch now claims its records of this repulsive practice were scrapped.) One "disastrous" result of the colonial government's fear of democrats and its efforts to suppress them, says Ms Wu, is that after the handover Beijing will insist it is doing nothing the British didn't do. An additional disaster, she says, is that there exists no firmly established "stable and mature alternative to British colonial rule".

Like Steve Tsang and his forced marriage, Ms Wu feels bad about the future: "You suddenly reach a dead end, and that's how I've felt for a long time... A political career has simply not been an option in Hong Kong. It has never been for anybody."



Tiananmen Square, 1993, from *Marc Riboud in China*, (Thames and Hudson, £35)

Rough and ready to go

James Pringle

CHINA
The Rough Guide
By Jeremy Atiyah, David Leftman and Simon Lewis
Rough Guides, £15.99
ISBN 1 85228 225 X

Travelling in China is often not much fun. Recently first-class passengers on a Chinese airline were handed economy-class food trays, then later saw the stewardesses scoffing what was clearly their first-class food. When questioned, one hostess replied haughtily: "We should have better food — after all, we're working."

And given how difficult it is to do anything in China, it is often easiest to book a package tour. Yet package tourists follow a tightly supervised schedule which isolates them from the population. None of this is to say that China is not worth visiting. The individual traveller faces all sorts of frustrations, but every time one is about to give up on China something positive happens that makes it all seem worthwhile. If you are not going to China on a package, and are not wealthy enough to be cushioned from China's rigours, you need a guidebook. Independent-minded travellers are left with the *Lone Planet* or the *Rough Guide to China*. Borders are open and visas are readily distributed, but the standard tourist "sights" — the Great

Wall, the Forbidden City, the Terracotta Army — are few, considering the size of the country.

"Indeed," says the *Rough Guide*, "historic architecture is scant... Chinese towns and cities lack that sense of history so palpable in the great cities of Europe or the Middle East. The Communists, like all dynasties before them, simply destroyed earlier showpieces."

The *Rough Guide's* introduction to Shanghai is especially pungent. Qingdao is on the mark: "The water is like Chinese soup — murky and warm with unidentified things floating on it, so swimming is not recommended." But sometimes it misses. Thus Weihai (on the Shandong coast) "has nothing to recommend it". On the contrary,

this former British concession, given up in 1930, is fascinating for British visitors, especially the island of Lügong, with its old British houses.

And Wutai Shan, one of China's four Buddhist mountains, rewards the long bus journey there "with monks, fortune-tellers and pilgrims outnumbering tourists, with a peaceful spiritual tone". When this traveller was there last year, Wutai Shan was an inferno of karaoke clubs. It was difficult to find much that was spiritual.

But, when the *Rough Guide* comes to Tibet, it tells it like it is. Tibet is a "sad and subjugated colony of China". Tibet's past "has been tragic, its present is painful and the future looks bleak". Yet it rounds out the overall scene by adding: "Many of the Chinese who have come to Tibet are poor people trying to make a life for themselves and their families. They may have little knowledge of the wider political implications of their presence here." True, and in this kind of comment the *Rough Guide* fulfils its promise of presenting China in its contemporary context.

Red badge of courage

The Cultural Revolution did not just shape a generation of Chinese. It scorched their lives and scarred their minds, shattering millions of families and implanting a cynicism about authority that not even the horrors of civil war, foreign occupation or the famines inflicted by Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward had aroused.

No two testimonies of this tumult and its consequences could be more different than those of Rae Yang and Wei Jingsheng. Yang's *Spider Ears* (University of California Press, £20.95; ISBN 0 520 20480 8) is a depressing journey to disillusion: Wei's, *The Courage to Stand Alone* (Viking, £16.99; ISBN 0 670 87249 0), is a pungent and unfailingly brave celebration of what he calls "the depth, force, and enduring tradition of humanism in Chinese culture".

The title Yang gives to her memoir is taken from the saying of Lu Xun that history owes a debt to those who, by eating poisonous spiders, "died so that now we know better". Bitterness is her theme. Despite the *faux naïf* style, there is a riveting directness about her account of what made of her a pitiless young Red Guard capable of beating class enemies half to death, and how she gradually realised to what point she and other educated youngsters had been duped, exploited and finally left to rot.

Even then, she says, she would not have left China in 1981, "had not Deng Xiaoping shut down Democracy Wall [and] arrested Wei Jingsheng".

It is typical of Wei Jingsheng that he can find something positive to say even about the Cultural Revolution. Whatever those chaotic and cruel years cost his generation, he writes, "we made up



Wei Jingsheng: unbroken

for it in mental experience". Personal bitterness is absent from this remarkable, painful and ultimately exhilarating book. Wei, who probably does not even know of the publication of this collection, had no opportunity to choose the book's title. But if he had, it would probably have spoken not about his own struggle, but of his hopes for China.

That hope should survive what he has endured is extraordinary. His health broken by appalling ill-treatment,

this man of 47 is back in solitary confinement at the Nanpu New Life Salt Works, due for release only in 2002. He has already served nearly 15 years in prisons and labour camps for the "crime" of declaring, in his famous poster on Democracy Wall in 1978, reproduced here, that Deng Xiaoping's "Four Modernisations" would fail to transform China without a "fifth modernisation", democracy. For democracy, he wrote a decade later from prison, was the most powerful tool against corruption and the abuse of power, "more iron than an iron fist".

Courageous work has been written from solitary confinement, but rarely is it mixed with such unquenchable engagement with the outside world. The theme of these missives is the grand theme of China today: it is that the "social upheaval" which both China's leaders and its people fear "begins with confused thinking, and confused thinking stems from unreasonable behaviour on the part of those in power". In saying the unsayable, he has broken no written Chinese law; but he has broken every unwritten one in the book. It is China's tragedy that this is precisely why he has again been silenced by nervous authority, this time perhaps until death.

ROSEMARY RIGHTER

The size, the strangeness and the growing strength of China fascinate the outside world. Fascination, confusion and alarm. Serious observers now write about the coming threat from China; and even the less apocalyptic reporting on the country in the Western media tends to be partial and emotional. The fact that this is the last great surviving Communist system is some explanation, but hardly sufficient.

In such a situation, objective analysis of what the Chinese are up to becomes essential; and the book by Andrew Nathan and Robert Ross meets the need exactly. This is a dispassionate survey of Chinese foreign policy, which sees China engaged, like any other state, in the pursuit of national interest and security. This is right, for, apart from a few hysterical years under Mao, China's external policy has been a model of *realpolitik*.

The authors acknowledge China's strengths, but also examine China's weaknesses: a vast, poor population, growing too fast; a shortage of good agricultural land; long, not easily defensible borders; powerful and unreliable neighbours; continuing technological backwardness and, in consequence, relative military inadequacy. The Chinese Air Force, for example, is apparently inferior in quality even to Taiwan's and the technological gap is widening rather than diminishing. In the past a sense of vulnerability has often com-

Experience a better guide than hope

Percy Cradock

THE GREAT WALL AND THE EMPTY FORTRESS
China's Search for Security
By Andrew J. Nathan and Robert S. Ross
Norton, £22
ISBN 0 393 04076 3

THE LEGACY OF TIANANMEN
China in Disarray
By James Miles
The University of Michigan Press, £13.95
ISBN 0 472 10731 3

pelled China to resort to stratagems that conveyed the illusion that it was stronger than it really was. Today it faces hard choices if it is to come to terms with an international order dominated by the United States.

Nathan and Ross rightly see the current task for the West as the peaceful assimilation of China in that international order. They prescribe a cautious approach, a judicious mixture of accommodation, persuasion and resistance. In their view, the old Cold War with China in the Fifties may have been unavoidable; but a new Cold War would be an immense error.

Wise advice, but it does demand a detachment and consistency in policy rarely forthcoming in Western democratic life. The Sino-US relationship lies at the heart of the problem. United States policy on China is constantly buffeted by cross-winds: domestic pressures; the American disposition to moralise; above all, Congress. What is worse, under weaker leadership on the Chinese side, the strategic quality which has hitherto marked their approach may prove to be lacking. The moral of the book is the need for detached, consistent, unpoliti-

cised thinking and practice in foreign policy. Professionals will devoutly agree; but the politicians do not always oblige.

James Miles writes with a narrower focus, about the Chinese domestic scene. He was the BBC's correspondent in Beijing from 1988 to 1994; and his judgment is inevitably coloured by his experience of Tiananmen in June 1989. He gives a good account of the aftermath. He goes on to describe Deng Xiaoping's visit to southern China in 1992, which gave a new impetus to economic reform, and gives a vivid picture of the many unlovely features of the divided, acquisitive society which reform and the "socialist market economy" have brought about: the growing inequalities, the endemic corruption, the peasant discontents, the folk migrations from the land to the cities, the troubles of the loss-making state enterprises.

As his subtitle indicates, Miles thinks things cannot hold together under such strains and, like many Western reporters, he sees judgment day for the Communist regime as coinciding with the death of Deng Xiaoping. "Deng's death is likely to lift the lid on this cauldron of discontent." The trouble is we have since lived through judgment day almost without noticing it, and China goes on much as before.

In his *Advancement of Learning*, Francis Bacon, reflecting on the political analysts of his day, commented the Italian school, because they wrote "of what men do, not what they ought to do". Nathan and Ross clearly belong to the first category; Miles has strong leanings to the second. Nathan and Ross have the advantage.

Sir Percy Cradock was Ambassador to China from 1978-84 and the Prime Minister's foreign policy adviser from 1984 to 1992. His book, *Experiences of China*, was published in 1994.

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Ian McIntyre makes his way through an exhaustive biography of Anton Chekhov, whose letters reveal an uninhibited spirit

The doctor and the details

ANTON CHEKHOV
A Life

By Donald Rayfield
HarperCollins, £25
ISBN 0 002 55303 4

I was not a long life, and it was not on the surface at least a particularly eventful one. Chekhov was born in Taganrog, on the Sea of Azov. The families of both parents had bought their way from serfdom into the merchant class. By the time he qualified as a doctor in 1884, he was already well-known for his short stories, and he was taken up by the press baron Suvorin, who owned the pro-government *Novoe vremya*, then Russia's largest daily paper.

He travelled to Sakhalin, the Russian Botany Bay, and published an investigation of convict life; together with Tolstoy and Gorky, he came to be regarded as the conscience of the nation. He bought an estate, quarrelled with Suvorin over Dreyfus, turned his mind increasingly to the theatre.

Petersburg audiences could be rough, and had been known to pelt the cast with apples, binoculars and galoshes. The first night of *The Seagull* was a disaster. "If I live another 700 years," he said, "I won't let the theatre have another play." The foundation of the Moscow Art Theatre in 1898 changed all that. The play was triumphantly revived, and in the six years that were left to him, Chekhov

produced the three other masterpieces of his maturity.

He lived for most of his life with his parents, with a possessive sister and with various more or less delinquent brothers; there was a long succession of mistresses, and a late and far from idyllic marriage to the actress Olga Knipper. When he died in Germany in 1904, the body was sent home in a refrigerated railcar. Gorky was indignant. "Anton who squirmed at anything vile and vulgar," he wrote to his wife, "was brought in a car for transporting fresh oysters." A crowd of 4,000 marched to the Novodevichy cemetery. People climbed trees and broke crosses in the fight for a

place. Chaliapin burst into tears and cursed them: "And he lived for these bastards," he cried.

In some ways Chekhov's life resembled one of his own plays — not much of a plot, lots of atmosphere, plenty of cameo roles for character actors. When he bought his mother false teeth in Petersburg, she refused to wear them because they had been made on the 13th of the month. When his father found a rat in a barrel of olive oil he was "too honest to say nothing, too mean to pour the oil away, too lazy to boil and re-filter it". Father Pokrovsky was called in to conduct a service of consecration.



Chekhov: unidyllic life

We meet the Petersburg editor Nikolai Leikin, squat and hairy, who hung his Christmas tree with raw meat for his two hounds, and the chief of police at Tomsk who took Chekhov round the local brothels. In Yalta we encounter the dentist Ostrovsky, who deserts Chekhov in mid-operation for his duties in the Jewish cemetery. In Blagoveshchensk there is a Japanese prostitute, who impresses Chekhov by her lack of coyness and her professional skill: "You feel you are not having intercourse," he wrote to Suvorin, "but taking part in a top level equitation class."

Rayfield's trawl of the sources has been impressively exhaustive. In the Russian State Library there are 7,000 letters addressed to Chekhov, half of which have never been referred to in print. Almost 5,000 of his own letters are in the public domain, although a 1968 Central Committee resolution forbade the publication of certain passages.

Rayfield has not felt bound by the Soviet (and Russian) convention of not "discrediting or vulgarising", but the restoration of previously bowdlerised passages in the correspondence does not hugely modify our picture of Chekhov. Most of them are simply uninhibited references to bodily function or to sexual performance. "I have haemorrhoids, awful, like grapes, growing in bunches from my behind," he tells his friend Franz Schectel. When Leikin writes boastfully of his potency as both man and editor, Chekhov observes drily: "A penis that smashes walnuts as a

measure of editorial ability could be a fine theme for a dissertation."

Rayfield himself has a good cardonic eye, and I frequently wished he had spared us some of the detail and let us hear more of his own voice. He describes a schoolmaster whose punishments included strapping boys to a stepladder to be spat at by the class. "The fees, however, were modest," Rayfield adds, "and the boys needed no uniform." He also has a good line in end-notes (I was sorry they were not looser) — "Koumiss is fermented mare's milk; it tastes like a mixture of champagne, chalk and rancid butter."

"All biography is fiction," Rayfield asserts, "but fiction that has to fit the documented facts." It is not a formula he observes. Rather does he pile up nuggets of information like skulls and bones in some vast, chronologically ordered charnel-house. He contends that to write a full biography would take a lifetime longer than Chekhov's own. That would be to pursue a will of the wisp. Inside this fat new life there is a better book struggling to get out — less choked by detail, more varied in pace and characterised by more light and shade.

Truth far worse than fiction

Louis de Bernières abhors the deadly trade that threatens so many Colombians

When this book was first launched in Colombia, in 1996, Márquez announced that not one single word of it was fiction. Furthermore, he stated that reporting was his favourite kind of work. Moreover, when it comes to reporting, Márquez is so scrupulous with the truth as to be quite old-fashioned: one of his earliest works, *The Story Of A Shipwrecked Sailor*, unearthed a truth so embarrassing to the then dictatorship that Márquez got into considerable trouble, and the newspaper which had published it was closed down.

I mention all this because the blurb on the English edition of *News* disingenuously makes it out to be a novel. I am aware that Márquez's fiction sells far better than his non-fiction, but I do not think that it does a service to Márquez himself for the publishers to flag this book as something which Márquez explicitly states that it is not. Had he decided to write it as a novel, it would have been different.

Let us move on to the justified enthusiasm, however. The book has been admirably translated by Edith Grossman into excellently smooth English, although (and here I acknowledge my perversity) I would have preferred it rendered with more fidelity to the original Castilian word-order, which is more elegant, and I shudder when confronted by split infinitives on such a scale. Aficionados of Márquez's style will nonetheless be pleased by the recurrence of many of his favourite turns of phrase, and his love for words like "apocalyptic", "prodigal" and "improbable". His prose is satisfying and refreshing, as when he describes the presidential plane as "a decrepit

Fokker that flew only by the grace of God after almost 30 years of forced labour", or when he has somebody singing "salsa, vallenato, and bambucos all day at the top of her lungs and with the ear of an artilleryman".

Good writing is not what is important here, however, because the book is about the "biblical holocaust" that has been consuming Colombia for more than 20 years. Pablo Escobar, then head of the cartel in Medellín — "a city martyred by violence" — had made so many enemies that he realised that he could only be safe, and continue to run his business, if he was in prison under the protection of the State. The one obstacle to his surrender was that Colombia has an extradition agreement with the United States, where Escobar knew that he would be imprisoned for numerous consecutive lifetimes. He therefore kidnapped several well-known people, and would not surrender them until he had guarantees of non-extradition. The book retells, with a most painstaking attention to the smallest detail, the story of their kidnapping and captivity. One harmless old woman, Marina Montoya, is held for a while, and then shot.

There are, of course, lighter moments, as when President Gaviria remarks: "I was the only Colombian who didn't have a President to complain to," but on the whole it is hard to escape the feeling that Márquez has written this book in a mood of tightly suppressed rage. Mitigating episodes of heroism, defiance and love cannot, for example, prevent us from sharing with the author his angry astonishment at the superstitious religiosity of the assassins, who see no contradiction between awe-struck faith in the Virgin



Márquez's account exposes a biblical holocaust that has been consuming Colombia for more than 20 years: kids deal crack and glue on the streets of Medellín, 1989

and complete immorality. We learn of the teenage guards' extreme fatalism, all of them knowing that they will never grow old, most of them unhinged by alcohol, tedium, futility and cocaine. Escobar threatened to blow up the entire city of Cartagena, and Márquez, who normally leaves his moral judgments to one side, describes him as a man who had a "total inability to distinguish good from evil".

The narco-traffickers, because of their incalculable wealth, were able to corrupt and destroy the moral and social fabric of Colombia. They offered "silver or lead" (a bribe or a bullet), and Escobar in particular ran a campaign of terrorism that claimed tens of thousands. The book warns us all of what happens when fantastically easy money falls into the hands of megalomaniacs without moral limits.

Márquez is possibly the most respected man in Colombia, but he has been courageous in publishing this book. Now that the cartels are broken, the cocaine assassins are underemployed. They have linked up with terrorist and revolutionary organisations such as FARC, ELN and EPL, who are gradually taking up where the cartels left off, and also diversifying into poppies. There will, needless to say, never be a revolution, but these people have created

a tidy business out of applying the skills of their new recruits. Anyone who is even of modest means in Colombia now runs the risk of being kidnapped, and lives in terror. When I was given the Colombian edition by a friend of mine from Cali, she wrote in the front, with absolute seriousness: "Antes de que yo pueda tener una de estas experiencias..." [Before it happens to me...]. She is no one in particular, but she has an armed bodyguard and is too frightened to go out for a picnic in the country.

What I cannot understand is why Márquez has been so restrained in pointing out who is ultimately responsible for the tormenting of his beautiful and beloved country. Only in one paragraph does he mention it even in passing. The point is that no one would sell cocaine if no one was buying it. The United States will never legalise it, and so it is futile to argue that they should. Let me be explicit: Escobar became possible, countless thousands died horribly, an entire generation of urban teenage boys became assassins and died before they were 20, little girls were abducted from the countryside and gang-raped, because thoughtless, self-indulgent, decadent, overpaid Westerners think that taking cocaine makes parties more amusing. If you use cocaine, dear reader, you are by proxy a kidnapper, a rapist, a torturer, a terrorist and a murderer.

Grace Notes is a new departure for Bernard Mac Lavery. The protagonist is female (in *Cal* there was one major female character, in *Lamb* none at all); Catherine McKenna is a composer. The novel's first movement takes place in Northern Ireland, like most of Mac Lavery's writing; but the second is set in Scotland. And the chronology of *Grace Notes* is jarred, ending at its middle, while Mac Lavery's writing has tended towards straightforward narratives. The author's first novel for 14 years demands to be read carefully, just as modern music "demands" to be listened to, although the chronology makes quirky reading first time through.

Music — a life experienced through music, Catherine McKenna's life — shapes the story and fine structure of *Grace Notes*. Sound has been strong in Mac Lavery's writing since the first novel *Lamb*, where coat hangers jangled like "the slow tolling of thin bells". The writer's prose was clean-cut then, and if anything it has been pared down further now. But strong sound images are still present, their poetry enhanced by the bleak, lucid prose.

Try composing yourself

In *Grace Notes*, music becomes Mac Lavery's central thematic image. This is a story in two movements, and sound is stronger than vision, as if we hear the narrative through the ears of Catherine the musician — Walkmans "sizzled and dished", an old woman whistles "prayers full of essences". The piece opens with the death of Catherine's father, and the funeral is described through its music: "A

trary, Mac Lavery uses sounds as subtle giveaways of time and place: of the politics, religion and violence of Northern Ireland. Character too is echoed silently in objects — a lorry unburdening itself of a load, just as Catherine unburdens herself of her ghosts through her music and the birth of her child.

One of the accomplishments of *Grace Notes* is Mac Lavery's creation of a com-

plete female narrator and her simple unsentimental story, the baby ("A car alarm that shat and pissed") and its importance to Catherine. But the strongest impression left by *Grace Notes* is that of its central image — of the "notes between notes" which seem to compose themselves: of a life happening while its heroine is busy making other plans. "Do you compose the music or does the music compose you?" Mac Lavery writes. If architecture is frozen music, *Grace Notes* is the literary equivalent, full of its own powerful rhythm.

Tobias Hill's collection of short stories, *Skin*, is published by Faber, priced £8.99.

Tobias Hill

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Turner in his grave

Andrew Wilton

STANDING IN
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A life of J. M. W. Turner

By Anthony Bailey
Sindair-Stevenson, £25
ISBN 1 85619 399 6

TURNER
A Life

By James Hamilton
Hodder & Stoughton, £25
ISBN 0 340 60823 1

He was brought up in a narrow alley off Covent Garden, his father a chafy Devonian barber; his mother, more genteel, slithered into madness, and her husband and son bundled her into Bedlam to die. By then Turner was in his twenties, a star in the artistic firmament with a lover who had borne him two illegitimate daughters. He kept his clandestine private life utterly separate from his professional career, conducted in the glare of celebrity and controversy. He acquired a reputation for miserliness, squirrelling away a fortune in the form of property and government bonds.

He eventually set up house with a much younger woman, first at Margate, later in a riverside cottage at Chelsea. He allowed her to keep him

out of her own pocket, but she cared for him with touching devotion to the end. Meanwhile his London house had gone to ruin, rain leaking into the gallery he had so carefully designed, the masterpieces he had hoarded there lying in piles, dripped on and peeling.

His will virtually ignored his family, who took their revenge for a lifetime's indifference by pleading that he was of unsound mind. The dispute dragged on, *Bleak House*-like, for five years.

He had wanted the £140,000 in his estate to go to worthy professional causes: an Academy medal for landscape painting, almshouses for "poor and decayed Male Artists". A compromise reached by the Court of Chancery in 1856 gave the family the money, while the nation received all the pictures — not just the 100 finished canvases Turner wished but 300 paintings and oil sketches, thousands of drawings and hundreds of sketchbooks.

Both these new biographies keep the paintings firmly in their place. They are to be read, not looked at, and both

are very readable. They exploit as best they can Turner's scrappy but sometimes amusing letters, his lugubrious "manuscript poem" *Fallacies of Hope*. Each book tries to balance the misanthropic Turner against the generous artist, the life and soul of whitebait suppers at Greenwich or Eel Pie Island. Each gets it about right, with a decided positive emphasis.

Hamilton writes less, but with gusto, bringing Turner to vivid three-dimensional life. Bailey is almost as thorough as Finberg, and perhaps as a consequence there is less light and air in his narrative, but it is an impressive performance. These two overdue biographies are going in the same direction but they take slightly different routes, and each is worth the ride.

Andrew Wilton is Keeper of British Art at the Tate Gallery. His *Turner in His Time* is published by Thames and Hudson, priced £36



Turner's self-portrait, aged around 25, 1798-1800

YOU WAIT 30 years for one, and then two come along at once. The last "literary" biography of J. M. W. Turner was Jack Lindsay's intelligent, tendentious Marxist interpretation of 1966. Since then, books about Turner the painter have been plentiful, but his life itself has proved elusive, and his first biographer, Walter Thornbury, made a famous hash of it.

The standard biography Thornbury should have written, with Ruskin at his elbows, had to wait until 1939, when the great Turner scholar A. J. Finberg published his exhaustive, if rather dry, account. Finberg thought Turner "a very uninteresting man to write about. There is nothing picturesque, romantic or exciting either in his character or in his life." Yet reading Thornbury one feels that, in the right hands, that life — thoroughly Dickensian — could have been the stuff of a great novel.

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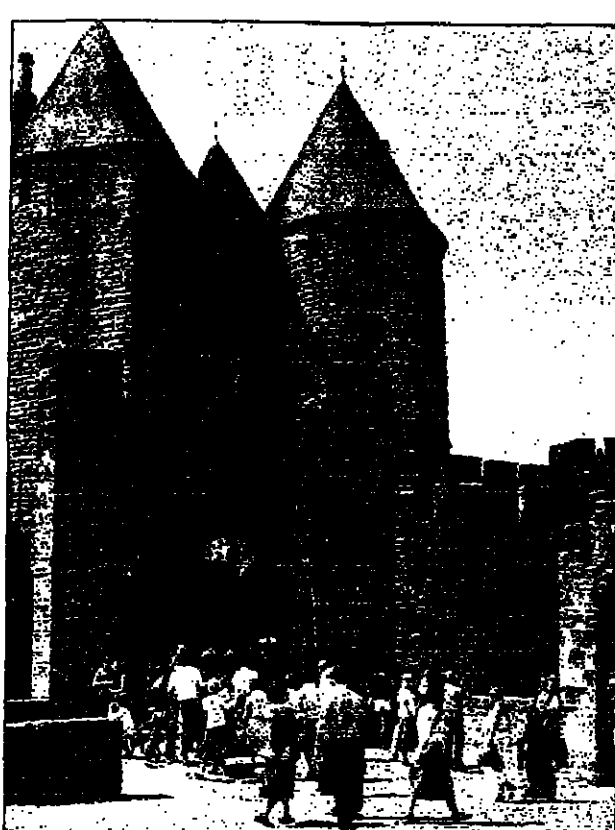
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□ **FLIGHTS** to Dubai cost £365 from August 16 to October 31. Details: Air Tickets Direct 0990 320321.



Cruising holidays on the canals and rivers of France to coincide with Bastille Day celebrations on July 14 are available from Blakes Boat Holidays. A week from July 12 on a cruiser sleeping four on the Canal du Midi and taking in the celebrations in the walled city of Carcassonne, above, costs £280 a person. Details: 01603 782911

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HOTELS

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□ **SUMMER RATES** at the Lowndes Hotel, in London's Knightsbridge, will be £150 a night plus VAT for single bookings and £160 plus VAT for doubles. The special rates apply from July 7 until August 31. Details: 0171-823 1234.

□ **TO CELEBRATE** Wimbledon finals the Old Course Hotel in St Andrews is running a special offer, at £149 a person, on July 4. Strawberries and cream, dinner and breakfast are included. Details: 01334 474371.

□ **THREE NIGHTS** for the price of two are offered at

weekends in July and August at the Pennington Midland Hotel, a Victorian hotel in Bradford. Cost is £98 a person. Details: 01274 735735.

□ **AN OUTDOOR** concert, part of the York Early Music Festival, is included in the overnight rate of £99 at the Swallow Hotel in York on July 6. Details: 01904 701000.

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□ **FOUR NIGHTS** for the price of three in July and August are available at the Donnington Thistle Hotel, near Derby. The price of £180 a person, for double occupancy, includes breakfast and dinner. Details: 01332 850700.

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Go east for new ski slopes

By JOANNA BAILE

THE snow and mountains of Lapland, Serbia, Slovenia and the former Soviet republic of Georgia are featured for the first time in the winter holiday brochures in travel agents this week.

Heli-skiing on virgin powder as high as 13,000ft in Gudauri in the Caucasus mountains makes similar experiences in the Alps "tame by comparison", according to Crystal Holidays.

A week's all-inclusive package, including direct flights on British Airways from Heathrow to Tbilisi, starts from £1,130 a person.

The resort of Kopaonik in Serbia offers some of the best value. A week's Thomson ski package for beginners, with flights, accommodation, equipment, lessons and lift pass, costs £275.

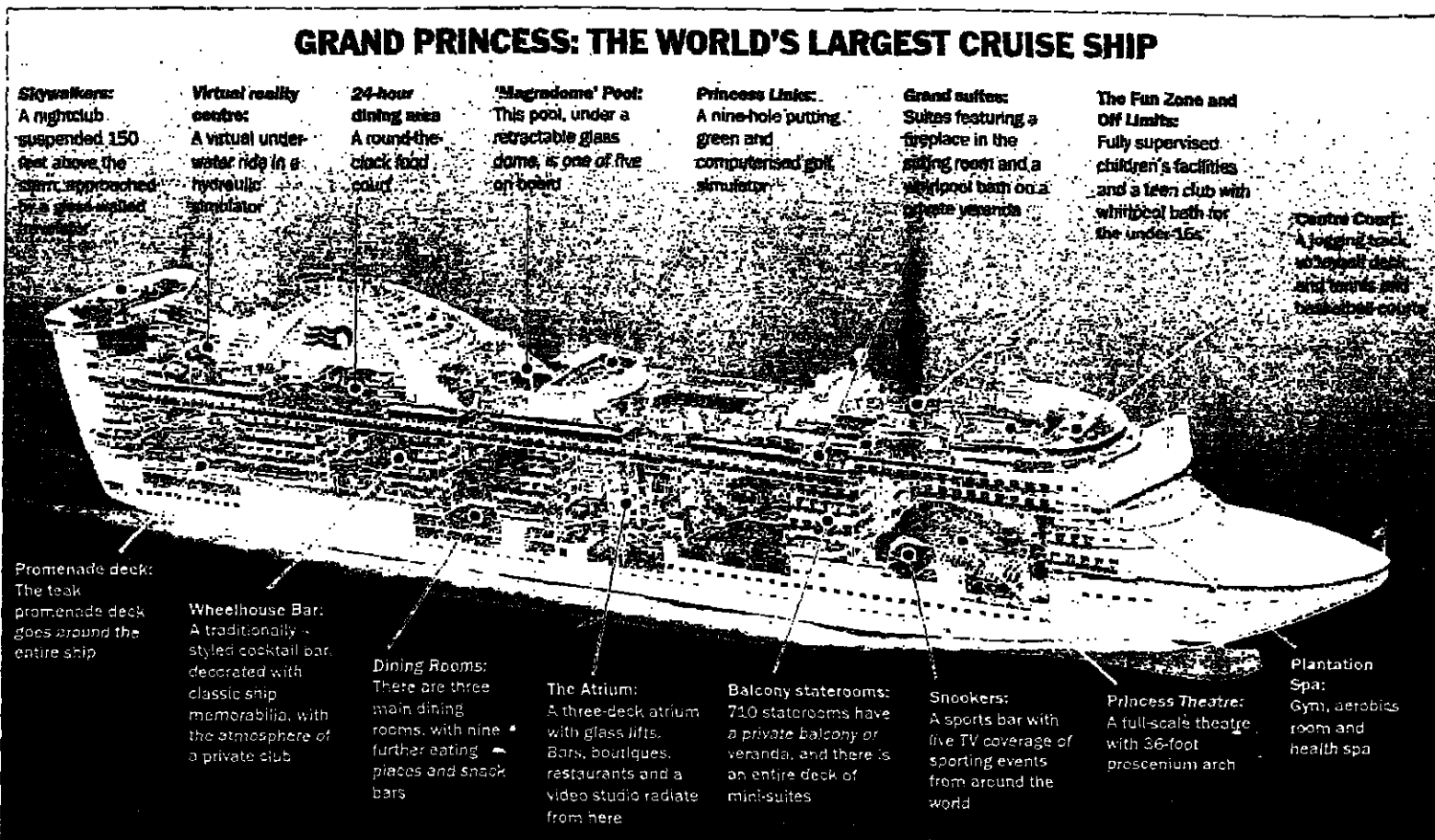
Crystal has also lowered its prices, with self-catering starting at £175 a week for St Lary in the French Pyrenees, half-board from £183 a week in Bulgaria, and North America starting at £294.

Lapland is another new Crystal destination for families, offering children a chance to visit Santa Claus. There are also opportunities to try cross-country skiing and a snow-sauna.

In Slovenia, Crystal offers a choice of three resorts: Kranjska Gora, Bled and Bohinj. First Choice Ski is offering a £75 early booking discount per couple, self-drive reductions and learn-to-ski packages from £49. Its brochures offer packages in 72 resorts in eight countries.



Husky-sledding in Lapland



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Skywalkers: A nightclub suspended 150 feet above the water, with a glass floor and a steel mesh safety net.

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24-hour dining area: A round-the-clock food court.

'Magnum' Pool: This pool, under a retractable glass dome, is one of five on board.

Princess Link: A nine-hole putting green and computerised golf simulator.

Grand buffet: Suites featuring a fireplace in the sitting room and a whirlpool bath on a private veranda.

The Fun Zone and Off Limits: Fully supervised children's facilities and a teen club with whirlpools both for the under-16s.

Princess Court: A jogging track, a tennis court and a basketball court.

Promenade deck: The top promenade deck goes around the entire ship.

Wheelhouse Bar: A traditionally styled cocktail bar, decorated with classic ship memorabilia, with a further eating area and a private club.

Dining Rooms: There are three main dining rooms, with nine further eating areas and snack bars.

The Atrium: A three-deck atrium with glass lifts, bars, boutiques, restaurants and a video studio radiate from here.

Balcony staterooms: 710 staterooms have a private balcony or veranda, and there is an entire deck of mini-suites.

Snookers: Asports bar with live TV coverage of sporting events from around the world.

Princess Theatre: A full-scale theatre with 36-foot proscenium arch.

Plantation Spa: Gym, aerobics room and health spa.

Safety pledges on new superliners

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

AS THE world's biggest cruise ship nears completion this week, questions are being asked about the safety and efficiency of the new generation of superliners.

The 109,000-tonne *Grand Princess*, being built for Princess Cruises, will be the largest passenger ship ever built, capable of carrying 2,592 passengers and 1,100 crew around the world when she comes into service next May.

Ordered by P&O to meet the demand for cruising — up 22 per cent last year and a bigger increase predicted this year — even *Grand Princess* will soon be dwarfed by others now being built in America. Westin Hotels, for example, plans to launch the 250,000-tonne *America World City* — capable of carrying 8,600 passengers and crew — by the end of the decade.

But concern is growing because of the impact such huge vessels will have on the ports they visit and of the safety implications of carrying

so many passengers, many of them elderly.

Captain Philip Pearce-Smith, who has run a search and rescue operation in the Solent for the past 35 years, claims that cruise ships are becoming too big and that a disaster is waiting to happen.

He says: "How are the old and infirm supposed to get into a lifeboat in an emergency? Now that fashion is dictating that ships have a large central atrium, which is open to all decks, they must also be open to both fire and flood. I fully understand that being big means being profitable, but it cannot be long before one of them has a disaster."

But his fears were dismissed by shipping companies, which claim that safety regulations are more stringent now than ever.

Edmund Brookes, director of marine services for the Chamber of Shipping, says: "Ships are full of detectors, sprays, fireproof bulkheads and protection equipment in

ways they never were before.

"Everything is now designed to the very highest standards and approved by governments. The more passengers there are, the more safety equipment there is. There is no unease in the industry at all because we know that we would not launch a ship unless it met the latest safety standards."

The potential fire hazard of atriums have already been tackled by the regulations, which include such devices as automatic "water walls" to prevent any fire from spreading, the industry claims.

Captain Pearce-Smith is also worried that the new giant ships will swamp the facilities at ports they visit. "Many Caribbean islands do not have the infrastructure to cope with 2,500 people or more arriving in a superliner," he says. "Often, two or three are in port together, and only a handful of coaches is available."

The Passenger Shipping As-



Captain Philip Pearce-Smith: search and rescue expert

sociation is adamant, however, that most ports can cope with the growth in cruise ships.

William Gibbons, the association's director, says: "Technically, there is no limit to the size of a ship. Though there may be more passengers, each one has more space than in a smaller ship and there are far more facilities. Cruising, though the fastest-growing tourist sector, still has only a 2.9 per cent share of the holiday market."

The *Grand Princess* enters service on May 14 next year

with a 12-night Mediterranean cruise from Southampton. The ship is being built at the Fincantieri shipyard in Monfalcone, Italy, at a cost of \$400 million (about £242 million). Cabins will cost from £1,895 for a twin inside berth to £2,545 for a balcony cabin. The ship has 26 cabins for disabled passengers and 710 state-rooms each with a private balcony.

In the first two days since the brochure went to travel agents this week, about 10 per cent of cabins for the maiden voyage had been sold.



How to placate the whingers

Anyone tempted to complain about a flight or a holiday which went wrong should watch *Airport*, a fly-on-the-wall documentary to be shown tonight on BBC1.

As Merla Celestine, an Air Jamaica manager at Heathrow, stoically copes with crisis after crisis and Jeremy Spake of Aeroflot overcomes everything even the most difficult passenger can throw at him, it is clear that if anyone has reason to complain, it is them — about their customers.

How those in the travel business keep their cool and smile in the face of often downright rudeness by passengers is remarkable.

Yet *Airport* is almost alone in portraying this reality. Others seem determined to prove that anyone who takes a flight or books a holiday is going to be ripped off. On *Summer Holiday*, screened on BBC1 on Tuesday, "undercover investigators" asked travel agents for advice about taking a holiday in the Caribbean or the Maldives in August. The programme said that half the travel agents failed to warn them that there are hurricanes in the Caribbean and monsoons in the Maldives at that time.

For goodness sake, people are not stupid. They can read a brochure, ask a friend, use their general knowledge, or even question a travel agency clerk. But that is not how they are regarded by those anxious to expose the wicked travel companies. At every turn, passengers are urged to complain, to demand their money back and to give the holiday companies a hard time.

And be prepared to pay far more for the likes of Merla and Jeremy. Their PR value alone is worth every penny they should — but shamefully do not — get.

As a justification for their campaigns the "consumer champions" say that the number of complaints is going up — Abta alone reported 14,931 in 1995 and 17,929 last year.

But are those figures the result of worsening standards or of moaners being encouraged to regard the travel industry as a "soft touch"?

Courts are packed with plaintiffs demanding compensation for their "holiday from hell", and anyone who has been on a package holiday or cruise will recognise the near-professional complainers.

Tour operators and airlines are in the business of selling dreams. And too often they are painted too rosily. Brochures show picture postcard islands, clear blue skies and perfect hotels. At the same time they offer ever lower prices with inevitably lower standards.

Led by Thomson, which now produces a "warts and all brochure", the industry is beginning to acknowledge that a resort can have shortcomings as well as delights. It is discovering that low prices alone are not enough and that the cheaper the holiday the more the complaints.

Now they need to go a stage further. The size and standard of the accommodation is the most common cause of complaint. Show genuine pictures of the room, restaurant and facilities which guests can expect and they will be less likely to moan.

And be prepared to pay far more for the likes of Merla and Jeremy. Their PR value alone is worth every penny they should — but shamefully do not — get.

London hotel costs in top five

By DAVID CHURCHILL

AS DEMAND for first class rooms in London outstrips supply, the capital has emerged as the fifth most expensive city in the world for business travellers. A new survey claims that costs for international high-flyers, including hotels and meals, come to more than £318 a day.

Executives who manage to secure a room in a London business-class hotel will find themselves paying £220 a night, on average, plus just over £31 a day for incidentals such as laundry and dry-cleaning. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will set back business travellers a

further £67.50 — without the cost of entertaining.

Business travellers headed for Hong Kong face the heaviest daily living expenses. Hotel, incidentals and food cost more than £387, according to a survey of 100 cities by the magazine *Business Travel News Europe*.

Also ahead of London in the world stakes are Tokyo, Monte Carlo and Paris. But, surprisingly, the cost of doing business in America is less than in most European and Far Eastern capitals. The most expensive city in the US is New York which, the magazine points out, would only just scrape into the top 20 worldwide.



Fast ferries fight Shuttle challenge

By STEVEN KEENAN

FAST ferries have been introduced on four cross-Channel routes this summer as operators try to fight the impact of Le Shuttle.

The car-carrying Le Shuttle service, which takes 35 minutes, resumed full operation on June 1, with up to five departures an hour through the Channel Tunnel.

Also, after the tunnel blaze last November, the company wants to regain half the car market through Dover and Folkestone by the summer's end — with plans to win up to 70 per cent. But yesterday one of its Dover-based rivals, Hoverspeed, put a new Super SeaCat worth £22 million into service to operate alongside two hovercraft to Calais. The battle is being fought on speed and service.

Hovercraft crossings also take 35 minutes, with the new craft taking 15 minutes longer. The conventional ferries of P&O, Stena Line and Sea France take 75 minutes.

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

India: Bhutan, Puri and Simla; Croatia: Whale-watching in Norway; Club Med in Sicily

Insure before you leap

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THOUSANDS of British holidaymakers are risking their lives and financial ruin by taking part in increasingly popular, but dangerous, sports such as free-fall parachuting.

Adventurous tourists tempted to try tandem parachute jumps like that which severely injured Gareth Griffiths and led to the death of his instructor in Florida this week, were warned that the sport is almost certainly excluded from the standard holiday insurance cover.

Malcolm Tarling of the Association of British Insurers said: "Although insurance companies do not expect you to sit in your hotel room throughout the two-week holiday, they do not expect you to put yourself at undue risk."

A spokesman for Home and Overseas, Britain's biggest holiday insurer, said that while more people were trying dangerous sports while on holiday, its policies excluded parachuting.

Columbus Insurance said its policies covered white-water rafting and scuba diving, but not parachuting.

Peter Shepherd of the specialist broker Leisurecare Insurance, in Swindon, said it could arrange cover for almost every sport. "Ten days parachuting in the United States could be obtained for £56.24. Compared with the minimum hospital cost of £1,000 a day and double that if doctors' fees and drugs

are included — it is very reasonable."

Many young holidaymakers decide on the spot to take part in a dangerous sport without contemplating the possible implications. Rachel Kearsey, a 28-year-old London secretary, spotted an advertisement for skydiving while in Australia. "I don't remember being asked to sign anything," she said. "We just had five minutes' chat and went up and jumped with an instructor. It was fantastic. But I never gave insurance a thought."

Skydiving in America is controlled by the United States Parachute Association. About 160,000 people a year make their first parachute jump, of which half are in tandem with an instructor. There were 39 fatal parachute accidents in America last year, of which one was a tandem accident.

US parachute centres give new parachutists an hour's instruction, including a training video showing emergency procedures. Clubs do not insist on students taking out medical insurance.

In Britain, the Civil Aviation Authority is technically responsible for parachuting safety, but delegates its powers to the British Parachute Association (BPA).

A first-time jumper would be required to take a medical if over the age of 40 and the BPA regularly inspects all equipment and procedures.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

Win a high-fashion makeover worth £1,000

Today *The Times*, in association with Debenhams, offers readers the chance to win a fashion makeover worth £1,000. Twenty runners-up will receive a voucher worth £25 to spend in any Debenhams store. The winner can choose any of Debenhams' own label designs, including J Taylor, IQ, Maine and Casual Club, or from ranges created exclusively for them by world-famous designers such as Jasper Conran (as shown), Lulu Guinness and Philip Treacy. Everyone who enters will be donating money, via the phone-line, to Children's Aid Direct, a charity which assists children and their carers affected by conflict, poverty or disaster. In just seven years the charity has distributed nearly £45 million worth of aid.

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How much aid has Children's Aid Direct distributed over the past seven years?

The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. The lines will be open until midnight on Saturday, June 28, 1997. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. 0891 calls cost 50p per minute.

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CHANGING TIMES

CRICKET

Moody prepares to extend power base at Worcestershire

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

TWO years ago this month, Tom Moody took over as the captain of Worcestershire on the first morning of a county championship match against Lancashire, scored a century and led them to an innings victory. Today, in the corresponding fixture at New Road, the gifted Australian will ponder doing even more.

Moody has been a popular captain since the abrupt, mid-season resignation of Tim Curtis and there is now a possibility that he will be asked to undertake an additional role as coach. The club's cricket committee met last night and the secretary, Mike Vockins, confirmed that the elevation of Moody was one plausible solution to the imminent departure of Dave Houghton to Zimbabwe.

"We are looking at it with a clean slate and it is conceivable Tom might be sounded out about combining the jobs," Vockins said. "It hasn't been put to him yet, but whatever we decide, the link with Tom Moody is a key one. He is contracted to us until the end of 1998 and we see him as a very important figure in planning the future."

Approaches, some official but the majority informal, have come from many sources since Houghton announced he was to become the national coach in his homeland. A number of the applicants are from overseas, but a more

obvious alternative to Moody is Phil Neale, a former captain of the club, who still lives in Worcester and may wish to return after a spell coaching Warwickshire.

Moody defied the after-effects of flu to make a critical century in the NatWest Trophy win over Holland on Tuesday, but is "still not 100 per cent", according to Vockins. "He looks pale and a shade unwell," he said, "but being Tom, he will play tomorrow."

The circumstances are somewhat different from 1995. Then, Lancashire had reached mid-June as the only unbeaten side in the championship. Now, they are one of five who have yet to win a game and they come to New Road in considerable disarray through injuries.

Lancashire will be led today by their third-choice captain. As this is Michael Atherton, it is not in itself a calamity, but the continued absence of both Mike Watkinson and Wasim Akram is severely disrupting the balance of the side. Jason Gallian is also missing today, while Neil Fairbrother has a late test.

Doubts surrounding the fitness of Mike Smith were dismissed yesterday by Gloucestershire, who presently lie third. "He had a slight groin problem, but it is nothing. He will definitely play at Luton," Philip August, the cricket

secretary, said. Good news for the surprise success story of the season, perhaps, but bad news for the team that, equally surprisingly, find themselves bottom of the table.

Northamptonshire will not relish facing Smith at Wardown Park. Their last championship game there, against Essex two seasons ago, finished inside two days. Northamptonshire won it despite being bowled out for 46 in the first innings and 23 wickets were shared by the left-armers, Mark Ilett and Paul Taylor.

Smith, another left-armers, is the leading wicket-taker this season with 42. He swings the ball later than either Ilett or Taylor and far more than Alan Mullally. One more impressive analysis ought to see him promoted to the England Test side at Old Trafford next week.

One England man missing today will be Nasser Hussain, who will be rested from Essex's game against troubled Derbyshire, at Southend, to have further cortisone treatment on a chronic tennis elbow condition. Hussain said, however, that he will definitely be available for Old Trafford.

Derbyshire's cause will not be helped by the withdrawal of Kim Barnett, their former captain, who suffered a badly bruised thumb in the NatWest Trophy defeat of Lincolnshire. His place could be taken by either John Owen or Tim Tewats.

The meeting of the past two championship counties at Grace Road sees the return of Mullally for Leicestershire and Allan Donald for Warwickshire, while the present leaders, Middlesex, are at full strength for their trip to Headingley, with Owais Shah playing his first championship game of the season. Middlesex are beginning to look strong, but this will be a test for them, especially if Mark Ramprakash, to whom captaincy must seem simple so far, loses the toss.

TABLE

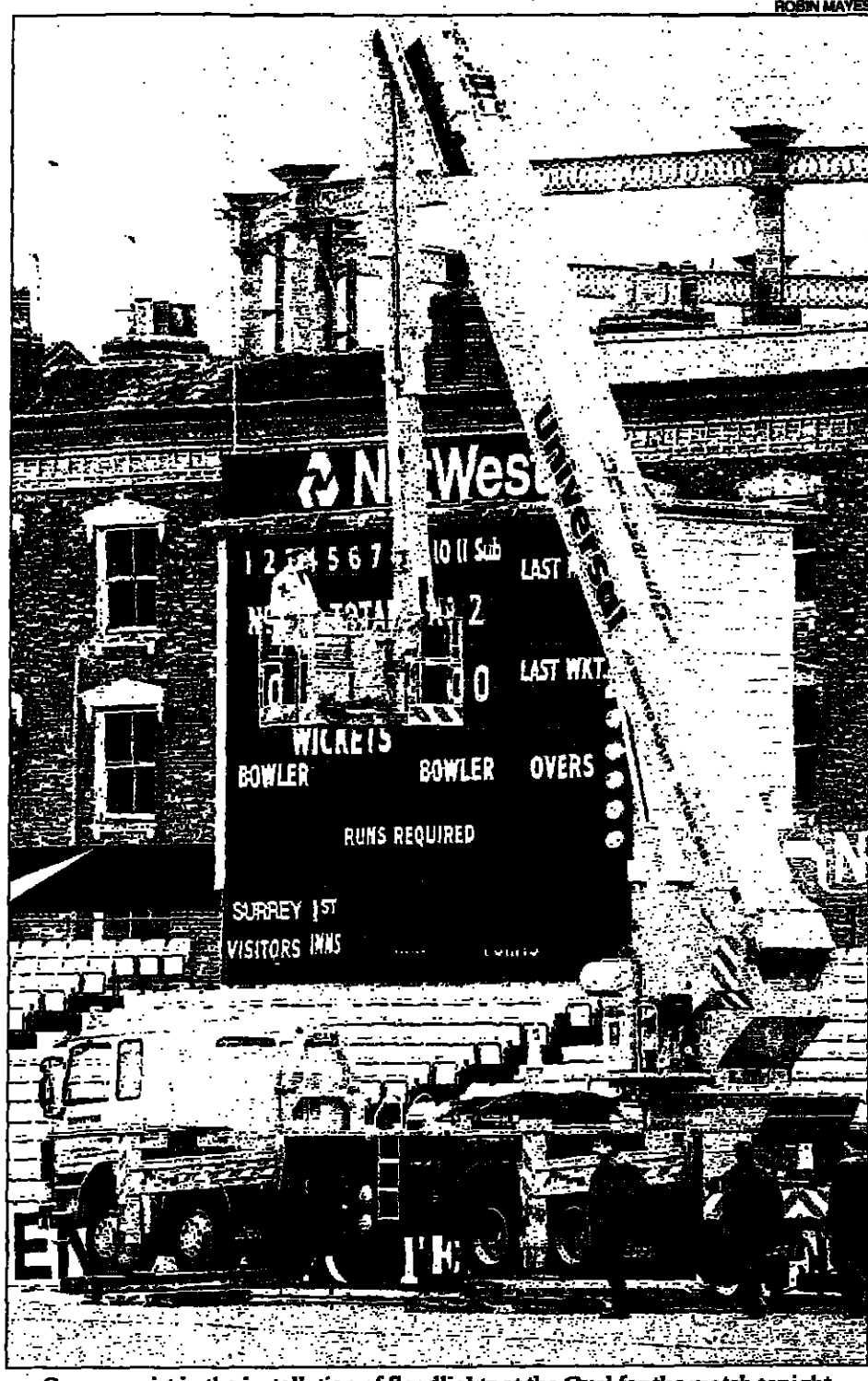
	P	W	L	D	R	BI	PS
Middlesex (9)	7	4	1	2	17	28	115
York (1)	7	4	2	1	14	28	109
Gloucestershire (13)	7	3	2	2	13	28	85
Gloucestershire (10)	7	3	1	3	17	21	85
Essex (14)	6	3	1	2	14	24	92
Nottingham (17)	7	3	1	3	5	25	87
Hamshire (14)	8	2	2	3	4	21	83
Yorkshire (9)	8	2	2	3	16	24	81
Leicestershire (11)	7	1	0	6	19	28	81
Somerset (11)	8	1	2	5	16	29	78
Worcestershire (7)	6	1	0	5	15	21	72
Warwickshire (8)	6	2	1	3	10	17	68
Durham (16)	7	1	2	4	14	23	65
Sussex (12)	7	0	2	5	12	26	53
Surrey (13)	7	0	2	5	15	20	50
Derbyshire (2)	7	0	4	3	12	18	49
Lancashire (15)	7	0	4	3	12	18	39
Northants (16)	6	0	2	4	7	17	38

(1998 positions in brackets)

Worcestershire's record includes eight points as side batting last in match where scores finished level



Moody: popular



Cranes assist in the installation of floodlights at the Oval for the match tonight

Floodlit cricket gets first test

By Ivo Tennant

THE first competitive floodlit match between two first-class counties will take place at the Oval this evening, when Surrey play Nottinghamshire. At stake is not so much four points in the Axa Life League as the very future of such cricket in the unpredictable climate of England.

The weather forecast for today is not encouraging for a contest that has cost £100,000 to stage. To break even, Surrey reckon that they have to

attract a crowd of 10,000, including members. They have sold almost 4,000 tickets in advance, will have nearly 2,000 corporate hospitality guests and are hopeful that many more spectators will attend after work.

John Major has accepted an invitation, as, assuming that the wind is not blustery, have a group of skydivers.

Paul Sheldon, the Surrey chief executive, stressed that the club was insured. "If we are affected by the weather, then we will try again," he insisted. "We knew this would not be a huge commercial bonanza, but we want to attract a new audience who will then come to our other matches. It is just one of our initiatives this season. Starting in July, for instance, anyone under 18 will be given free entry to all championship matches."

The four floodlights, which have been put up at a cost of £40,000, have been paid for by sponsorship. Local residents,

whom Surrey have kept informed of their plans, have been assured that the generators and lights will be turned off by 11pm.

Erecting the floodlights has roughened up the ground. Sheldon, however, said that he had received no objections to his initiative from the club's members or, indeed, from residents.

If there is no play today, the match will be abandoned, rather than postponed. "There is a free day next Tuesday, but our Test players will be required by England," Sheldon said, "and it is too late to reorganise another Sunday match this season."

There has been one previous, unsuccessful attempt at staging a floodlit event at the Oval. In September 1994, a six-a-side competition, involving some of the best-known cricketers of the 1970s and 1980s, was abandoned after the first of two scheduled days when the players' demands for immediate cash payment were not met.

Old rivals revert to hype for bore of the roses

MICHAEL HENDERSON



Line and Length

There is a prize on offer this week, which lies within my gift as sole arbiter. If anybody can find a more hideous chunk of prose than the text quoted beneath, he or she can claim a bounty of one hundred guineas, freshly minted, which will be paid on demand. I do not expect the postman to come panting up the steps.

The uniqueness of this clash, coupled with the cricketing fervour of the supporters, guarantees an unforgettable event. Day-night cricket is a regular feature in Australia, South Africa and India. Now the fans of Lancashire and Yorkshire have the opportunity to capture the spirit of the nineties and turn one-day cricket into a party.

The match will feature coloured kit, rock music to announce each batsman and perhaps even a live band. It will be a fun day out with a vibrant display of partying and participation, where flags, banners and musical instruments will be used as the essential props to create a carnival atmosphere.

You have to admit that it sounds exciting. "Fun day out", "unforgettable event", "carnival atmosphere", "spirit of the nineties" — the only thing missing is our old friend, a truly historic occasion. Even the dreary footsloggers of new Labour, who snubbed the Royal Ascot because people enjoy themselves there, might be tempted.

Once you have got beyond the dreadful language, what, exactly, does this guff portend? What can possibly be so much fun, so unforgettable, so — well, they said it — unique. It is, in fact, a one-day match of 50 overs a side at Old Trafford on Monday July 21. Played under floodlights, it will start at 3.30pm and finish round about 11.15pm. Both teams will take it in turns to bat for 25 overs each and there is £10,000 for the winners.

The press release was composed by Day Night Promotions, a London-based company, which badgered the clubs into putting the game on. How they managed to persuade them to give their assent to the "unique" tag is a mystery. After all, Lancashire and Yorkshire have been jousting since Gladstone saved young ladies in Whitechapel. There is also reference to a "Roses clash", a device known in legal circles as "passing off".

Put simply, it is a silly attempt to dignify a beer match, and the timing could have been better. It seemed apt that, shortly after Lancashire endorsed this statement, their players went down to a fourth defeat in seven championship matches, when Glamorgan bowled them out in 14 overs. Either they are indif-

ferent to their increasingly ragged public image or they are fearlessly breaking new ground.

An ideal season for Lancashire would probably be a championship of 36 one-day matches, with the occasional first-class friendly against Yorkshire thrown in for old times' sake. Laugh at your peril: that is the way the game is going. It is becoming harder and harder to find people within the game who are prepared to stand up for first-class cricket.

As is the way with many things in these image-conscious times, if something is not relevant to young people, it may as well not exist. It does not seem to have occurred to them that, if young people want to "party" and listen to disagreeably loud music, they will look for it in a cricket match. The rest of us, while acknowledging that times change, are happy to keep it that way.

Lancashire is a big club, rich and — in its own terms — successful, so it has no excuses. After winning the NatWest Trophy last year, to complete a double of knock-out cups, a senior member of the club hierarchy said, with some feeling: "You lot go on about how bad we are, but we've had a great year. If we won the championship, there'd be nobody there to watch." There it is, straight from the horse's mouth.

This is the club that has given England its present captain, coach and tour manager, yet the finest service that Lancashire has provided this summer is that press release, which talks of a vibrant display of partying. As Sir Kingsley Amis might have observed: "A what display of partying? A vibrant what of partying? A vibrant display of what?"

For cheering us all up, when they might be excused for thinking only of themselves in their present desperate situation, Lancashire deserve a nation's thanks.

Graf's career moves on apace

Australian coaches have been having a hard time of it in England lately, what with Geoff Marsh struggling to get his Test stars into some kind of form, Les Stillman being effectively demoted after Dean Jones's abrupt departure from Derbyshire and Dav Whatmore and Dave Gilbert coming under increasing pressure with underachieving Lancashire and Surrey.

It is pleasing to report, therefore, that one of their number has just gone home with his reputation intact, if not enhanced. Shaun Graf, the former Victoria fast bowler, who is now his state's cricket supremo, stood in at Hampshire while Malcolm Marshall was otherwise engaged with West Indies and could not have made a better impression.

"We were delighted with him," Tony Baker, the Hampshire chief executive, said. "We have all heard so much about the Australian methods and it was very interesting to find out more about them at close hand and see how they worked in practice."

"What impressed me most was that he was not dogmatic about their way being better than ours. In the past, we've been told that we must do this and we must do that, but he appreciated the peculiar constraints there are in county cricket. We all know that, in an ideal world, we would not play so much, but we are the only professional circus and we have to play the players."

"It was a matter of gently moulding things to fit the situation and it was a very worthwhile exercise. Shaun was very honest, very forthright and all our guys felt that they learnt a lot from him. That is not to put down Malcolm Marshall. He is

EXTRA
COVER

Hampshire through and through and we think the world of him." Marshall must have been pleased with his stand-in, too. He returned last week after deciding that Hampshire had been messed about enough by the West Indies' seemingly interminable Test programme to find a Hampshire side that many people had tipped for the wooden spoon sitting comfortably at seventh in the championship table.

KEEN memory

Memories of Brian Johnston's days at New College, Oxford, will be evoked on Saturday when his widow, Pauline, opens a new £750,000 pavilion that will bear his name.

Johnston himself helped to contribute towards the £300,000 that has so far been raised to pay for the development, which retained the profile of the old pavilion but involved a complete refurbishment of the interior.

The old boy, who would have been 85 this week, would have been pleased to know that, as well as accommodating all sports with a gym and squash club, it will cater for KEEN (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now), a charity that encourages children with physical and learning difficulties.

Mrs Johnston will unveil a

portrait of Johnners donated by the artist, Jocelyn Galsworthy, ring a brass bell that she has presented and had suitably inscribed and read from a letter that he sent to his mother and stepfather in 1932. "I'm playing tons of cricket, literally every day for the whole term," he wrote, "and am in quite good form. I made 14 for the Butterflies on Monday and 55 for the Allsorts against the college servants on Friday, carrying my bat throughout the innings. But on Sunday, I didn't get an innings for the Ramblers against the staff college. The latter was a rotten game and we were very bad, but we had an excellent lunch."

Missing the cut

There is a tug-of-war going on at Lashings Cricket Club in Kent over the services of Richie Richardson, the former West Indies captain, who is about to start playing again after recovering from an operation to cure a serious elbow injury, which he suffered while playing in South Africa for Northern Transvaal.

Richardson, who will ease himself back by turning out for the headmaster's XI against the pupils at Sutton Valence School on Tuesday, helped Lashings, an offshoot of a Maidstone sports club, to win promotion to the Central Kent League last year.

However, they have won every game that they have played without him this season and now the second-team captain, one James Sandbrook-Price, otherwise known as Handbag, is arguing that, under club rules, Richardson must prove himself in his side first. The first-team captain, a no-nonsense Australian called Rocky McNece, is expected to prevail.

Sobers signs up

It may seem a trifle premature with the Ashes series only two Tests old, but they will be turning their thoughts towards the England winter tour of the Caribbean at the Levensby Club at Teddington, Middlesex, tomorrow night, when Sobers will pay £49 a head for an evening with Sir Garfield Sobers.

For that, they will get a real taste of the Caribbean with a steel band, rum punch, plus the great man's reminiscences on the past and, more significantly, on what lies in store for England against a developing West Indies team.

Sir Garry will also be selling one of a limited number of bats autographed by the top ten run-makers in Test history — Border, Gavaskar, Groch, Miandad, Richards, Gower, Boycott, Cowdrey, Greenidge, and, of course, Sobers himself. They cost £400, but clubs have been known to raise upwards of £3,500 for them at auction.

Two extracts from the Gloucestershire programme for the Axa Life League match against Middlesex at Bristol last Sunday. "Like all true Gloucestershire supporters," Colin Sessions, chief executive, writes, "I was horrified by the scenes of violence and foul language during and after the game against Worcestershire... Once again, excessive alcohol was the major factor."

"A booze cruise around the docks," Philip August, cricket secretary, writes, "helped to restore team spirit after the Worcestershire defeat... an event enjoyed by players and administrative staff alike, which proves Mark Alleyne's shrewd powers of building team spirit within the whole club."

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FOOTBALL: BRAZILIAN FLAIR LIGHTS UP YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Adailton's launch swells galaxy of shooting stars

ADAILTON against Michael Owen? If the England Under-20 team prevail today against Argentina in the world youth championship in Malaysia, the prospect is imminent — not that comparisons should be stretched too far. The 19-year-old Brazilian striker, Adailton Martins, to give him his full name, is already a refulgent star on whom the covetous eyes of innumerable European scouts and agents are fixed.

Owen has yet to reach such heights, but he is only 17. He scored a magnificent solo goal against Mexico and those of us lucky enough to see his astonishingly good debut as a substitute for Liverpool against Wimbledon late last season will be aware of his precocious abilities.

Adailton, however, is something else again. Note that the young man from south Brazil did not even begin to play football until he was 15. So much for the terrifying ambition of Howard Wilkinson, the Football Association's head of coaching, who is now in Malaysia, that coaching should begin with five-year-olds.

In this context, the words of the Brazil coach, Antonio Barroso, are relevant. "Frankly, I think Adailton is a Brazilian type of player, one that is to say, who is born with football inside him, whom there's no need to teach any-

BRIAN GLANVILLE



Overseas View

thing at all. With players like this, the only job for a coach is to make them work, mould their talent and lead them to the highest level."

Adailton, a slight figure, scored nine goals in Brazil's first three games in the tournament, six of them against the hapless South Koreans. Yet he is no prima donna. He works hard for the team, brings his colleagues into the game and even drops back to help in defence.

Both he and his coach insist that there is no chance of his figuring in the World Cup finals next year. As Adailton modestly remarked, Brazil have plenty of attackers already — not least Romário, on whom Adailton, studying vid-

eos of the centre forward, has modelled himself. He plays for the modest Guarani club and seems to have no immediate ambitions to leave them for Europe. In time, he surely will.

The word that Liverpool are close to signing Fabrizio Ravanelli from Middlesbrough justifies the fear for those who believe England's sparse native talents are being blocked by foreign players. Owen surely deserves his place in the Liverpool attack, beside that other gifted Liverpoolian, Robbie Fowler.

Meanwhile, Borussia Dortmund and AS Monaco are keenly interested in Ravanelli. Should he go to Dortmund, the European champions, he would find himself working under an Italian manager, the club having just appointed the former coach of Parma, Nevio Scala, who turned down several offers from England.

The hunt for young talent grows ever more intense. Perugia, relegated from Serie A, have lost two 19-year-olds to Britain. Accommodation has been reached with Rangers over Gennaro Gattuso, now that the Glasgow club has bought the 20-year-old Perugia striker, Marco Negri. Perugia are still pursuing Everton over the signing of the midfielder, Luigi Riccio.

Riccio, like Gattuso, suddenly walked out on Perugia. At present, he is doing his

military service in Rome, but his agent has signed a contract with Everton that includes several free trips home a year and provision for intensive tuition in English. Perugia have appealed to Fifa, the world governing body, because, under Italian rules, the transfer is illegal. Everton may have the Bosman ruling on their side.

The Brazil senior team today meet Peru — fielding a mere under-23 side — in the semi-finals of the Copa America in Bolivia. For Brazil, exempted from the World Cup qualifiers, this has been simply target practice against countries that, preoccupied by World Cup qualification, have fielded scratch teams. One of them, Mexico, faced Bolivia in the other semi-final last night.

Overall, the competition has been a fiasco. High prices and weak teams have devastated attendances. The ever combative Daniel Passarella, the Argentine coach, was bitterly criticising the tournament from the first, not only on grounds of its redundancy but for the fact that Argentina might have had to play on the breathless heights of La Paz.

He and his team have gone home with their tails between their legs, knocked out by the young Peruvians, with three of their players sent off. Argentina entered a B team, but with enough experienced players to hope for success.



The emergence of Adailton, right, was marked by a flurry of goals in Malaysia

Kendall's asking price put at £1m

By Our Sports Staff

SHEFFIELD United have demanded £1 million in compensation for the services of Howard Kendall, their manager. Kendall will return to his former club, Everton, this week if an agreement can be reached between the clubs.

There is a delay, however, because Mike McDonald, the Sheffield United chairman, has been angered by Everton's approach and believes that he is entitled to heavy compensation. "I feel I have been kicked in the teeth," he said yesterday.

Kendall was holding talks over a contract with Everton last night as he prepared for his third spell at the club.

Walsall, of the Nationwide League second division, yesterday appointed Jan Sorensen, the former Denmark international, as their manager in place of Chris Nicholl, who resigned at the end of last season.

Brighton, having avoided relegation to the Vauxhall Conference by the skin of their teeth, may yet be expelled from the Football League after failing to pay a £500,000 bond to guarantee their continued membership of the league during a proposed groundshare, originally with Gillingham but now, probably, with Millwall.

The bond was payable by close of business at the end of last week, but the league has heard nothing.

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME



IN ASSOCIATION WITH
AXA EQUITY & LAW

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
1	Four Inn Balthams (P Johnson)	10966	27	Tecumseh (J Estlin)	10503	51	Dove's Dependables (D Tattou)	10389	76	Lening Rip (D Finley)	10270
2	Todd's (A Luckhurst)	10804	28	Fantasy Formik (G Crutchley)	10495	52	Pinewood 3 (DM Carter)	10373	77	Teddy Fox Bruce Be	10269
3	Let's Improve (J Johnson)	10688	29	San Stop (R Williams)	10491	53	Wombles (J Daint)	10363	78	Spot Of Cakes (AC Welch)	10266
4	Let's Improve (J Johnson)	10674	30	Kab's Cakes (N Kabi)	10485	54	Meg's Eleven (S Simmonds)	10360	79	James Boys 2 (M)	10263
5	Gazza's Guys (C Howkins)	10754	31	Kab's Cakes (N Kabi)	10485	55	Ships Eleven (M Sharp)	10346	80	Canterbury Crusade (J Scott)	10258
6	White's Wicketwipers (J Barber)	10729	32	Slightly Biased (M Trowell)	10465	56	Class Warriors 2 (S King)	10346	81	James Boys One (M Jones)	10256
7	Webbers Post (EG Evans)	10729	33	Orchid M & O (N Jones)	10465	57	Carren's Dazzlers (P Parker)	10345	82	The Wayne Factor (D Finley)	10258
8	Star Wars 2 (Z Ali)	10710	34	The 1987 X (Miss JM Hutchins)	10462	58	Coleraine Bats (D Blackburn)	10344	83	Don't Forget To Ru (P Rowan)	10258
9	Fantasy Formik E (G Crutchley)	10709	35	The 1987 X (Miss JM Hutchins)	10462	59	D J S 2 (D Fenton)	10344	84	Orchid M & O (N Jones)	10249
10	Injury Free 3 (J H Hurl)	10704	36	The 1987 X (Miss JM Hutchins)	10462	60	Class Warriors 2 (S King)	10344	85	Lester Cat Boys (P Traver)	10249
11	Portus (W Clarke)	10703	37	Points Galore (D Fenton)	10461	61	AARON First X (P Edwards)	10336	86	The One And Only (S Halton)	10239
12	Nine Inn Balthams (P Johnson)	10692	38	Fantasy Formik H (G Crutchley)	10452	62	Reharmen Hero's (M Pettman)	10332	87	Ducos C C (P Daves)	10236
13	Dennis Dynamics (M D Shepherd)	10681	39	Kab's Cakes 1 (N Kabi)	10449	63	Meedless (A DU Mac)	10328	88	S R S In The Press (S Vanni)	10226
14	Ward's Wicketwipers (J Barber)	10674	40	CF Sports (A A Mober)	10444	64	Class Warriors 2 (S King)	10328	89	Wes Don Mean This (J Moss)	10216
15	Doodlydies (J Roy)	10665	41	Shadow Leader 1 (D Findlay)	10437	65	Friday Night X (B McFerran)	10316	90	Wicket Kings (D Fenton)	10211
16	Barnham For Ever (R Ray)	10657	42	Hedgers Grove (D Payne)	10426	66	Dave's Dazzlers (D Tattou)	10311	91	Comedy Long Hops (J Hartfield)	10211
17	Ward's Wicketwipers (J Barber)	10657	43	Carren's Dazzlers (P Parker)	10426	67	Class Warriors 2 (S King)	10311	92	Wicket Kings (D Fenton)	10211
18	Three Lobs (P Johnson)	10645	44	Kamukawa Bowler (D Finley)	10410	68	Venys Vintage No	10304	93	The Prowler (M D Blackburn)	10204
19	Moar And Go H A P (N Jones)	10638	45	Caroline A (A Luckhurst)	10408	69	Rumrucks (D Davenport)	10301	94	M J F 2 (M Squires)	10203
20	ACE All Rounders (A Luckhurst)	10636	46	Caroline A (A Luckhurst)	10408	70	The Twins (B Colton)	10291	95	Partners (P Sainsbury)	10196
21	ACE All Rounders (A Luckhurst)	10636	47	Caroline A (A Luckhurst)	10408	71	Solke Thomas (D Davenport)	10286	96	Wicket Kings (D Fenton)	10178
22	Fantasy Formik G (G Crutchley)	10637	48	M J S 1 (M Squires)	10407	72	Tommy's Toppers (P Tompkins)	10286	97	J M's X (J McCusker)	10169
23	Rug Catchers (A Bates)	10609	49	M J S 1 (M Squires)	10407	73	No More Frays (D Eiles)	10279	98	Edward Ross (A Luckhurst)	10160
24	Fargo (BE Evans)	10571	50	Beard's Batters (M Brown)	10381	74	Dave's Dazzlers (D Tattou)	10277	99	SWC 255 (J Smith)	10152
25	All Round Ability (W Smith)	10540				75	Beard's Batters (M Brown)	10276	100	Eddie Woo (A Luckhurst)	10145

INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

The scores in brackets are the points scored in the past week; the other scores are the cumulative points scored since the start of the season. The figures include all matches completed by June 23. Overseas players are shown in bold type. Rising stars in <i>italic</i> .				
Player (no)	Runs	Wickets	CVS	Total
Batsmen (001-148)				
Category A				
C J Adams (001)	633	63	0	15 (1)
G F Archer (002)	361	194	4	13 (0)
M A Althorn (003)	752	158	0	0
C J Adams (004)	633	63	0	15 (1)
R J Bailey (005)	820	101	1	0
J J Bennett (006)	318	24	2	0
P J Bell (007)	117	1	0	0
G S Bennett (008)	509	50	0	5 (5)
D B Bown (009)	801	14	2	22 (8)
P D Bower (010)	328	0	0	0
A D Brown (011)	95	121	0	0
M A Burcher (012)	533	184	0	0
P A Cutley (013)	52	0	0	0
J P Crawley (014)	582	10	0	0
M A Burcher (015)	849	112	1	0
M J D Elliott (016)	872	284	0	0
N H Farnthorpe (017)	454	0	0	0
J R Gellan (018)	540	0	0	0
M J Gellan (019)	719	0	0	0
G A Gidd (020)	367	0	0	0
M L Hayden (021)	1226	204	4	8 (1)
D H Hays (022)	549	0	0	0
G A Hild (023)	145	0	0	0
A J Holbrook (024)	422	19	0	0
N H Hudson (025)	726	38	0	0
D H Hudson (026)	388	0	0	0
J H Kallis (027)	438	222	1	0
M L Lathwell (028)	328	10	0	0
J S Lathwell (029)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (030)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (031)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (032)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (033)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (034)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (035)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (036)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (037)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (038)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (039)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (040)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (041)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (042)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (043)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (044)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (045)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (046)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (047)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (048)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (049)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (050)	337	0	0	0
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M L Lathwell (058)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (059)	337	0	0	0
M L Lathwell (060)	337	0	0	0
Category B				
A Blythe (061)	338	96	0	0
P J Mayers (062)	416	0	0	0
R M Mayers (063)	338	96	0	0
M M Mayers (064)	216	19	1	0
D M Mayers (065)	280	80	0	0
P J Mayers (066)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (067)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (068)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (069)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (070)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (071)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (072)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (073)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (074)	484	0	0	0
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P J Mayers (100)	484	0	0	0
Category C				
P J Mayers (101)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (102)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (103)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (104)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (105)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (106)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (107)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (108)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (109)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (110)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (111)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (112)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (113)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (114)	484	0	0	0
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P J Mayers (194)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (195)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (196)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (197)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (198)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (199)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (200)	484	0	0	0
Category D				
P J Mayers (201)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (202)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (203)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (204)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (205)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (206)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (207)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (208)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (209)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (210)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (211)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (212)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (213)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (214)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (215)	484	0	0	0
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P J Mayers (232)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (233)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (234)	484	0	0	0
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P J Mayers (283)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (284)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (285)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (286)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (287)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers (288)	484	0	0	0
P J Mayers				

Wimbledon washout proves an uncomfortable experience for spectators

Shopping around for entertainment

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

Someone has really missed a trick, in my opinion, failing to sponsor the Wimbledon tarpaulins. An aerial shot of the All England Club on one of its famous washout days is all swollen-bellied plastic sheets, like an array of giant grow-bags, without the tomatoes. What a waste of a prime site. Those tarpaulins could spell out messages of all sorts. "CLIFF RICHARD STAY HOME." That would be a good one.

I had always wondered why, during rainfall at Wimbledon, dauntless punters remained in their Centre Court seats, sheltering under umbrellas, munching sad apples and risking the unpleasantness of damp community singing. "You should go indoors," I used to urge them from my comfy sofa at home. "Go indoors!" Getting up briefly to turn up the gas fire and settling down to a rerun of an old Borg-McEnroe match on the BBC, doubtless that's what many telly viewers advised yesterday as well.

But alas, "indoors" is an insanely fanciful notion at Wimbledon. It is an outdoor event. Thus, you can have "under cover" and also "sitting down", but unfortunately it is a matter of either/or: they rarely occur in useful combinations. In the Aorangi Food Court, people impersonated refugees, sitting on the cold floor on newspapers in the No 1 Court "Food Village", they ate their Thai stir-fry standing up. People brought up las I was on the principle "Never stand up when you can lie down" can find Wimbledon pretty hard going.



A couple share an umbrella for cover and find solace in a glass of champagne while an official optimistically posts the day's order of play

So of course shopping turns out to be the thing. Personally, I shopped widely and imaginatively during the nothing-bloody-doing hours of Wimbledon yesterday until 6 o'clock, when play finally commenced. I shopped in the little bijou Post Office and in the Museum Shop. The small chemist's was a disappointment (mostly sun-creams), but the key-fobs in the large swanky Waterford Crystal place under No 1 Court certainly rewarded another thoughtful browse and I expect to make my final decision on this important matter really quite soon.

No catalogue of the day's excitement would be complete without also mentioning that I had two pieces of pizza, a handful of chocolate creams from a "Bon-Bons" stall and a

half of lager. And if memory serves, this was all before half past eleven.

If it sounds like spending quality time at Wimbledon, that's also what it feels like, except that nobody asks you for your boarding pass all the time and there are no toddlers crayoning the bins. Hourly, a loudspeaker announcement reduces the low polite murmur of the dank crowds to a deep hush. Even the cash tills fall silent for the duration. The announcement routinely offers the palest ray of hope, that in "an hour or so" the weather situation will be reviewed. Ho hum, says the crowd, and then recoils itself. "Do you take Switch?" Beep, beep, beep, ker-ching.

Personally, I spent much of the day catching up with important paperwork — ie,

filling in the winners of the first-round matches in *The Times's* handy championship knockout table and getting hysterically over-excited about what the next bout of play might bring. For example, I can now see that Haas (Ger) has beaten Ruud (Nor), to meet Petchey (GB). I'll confess I hadn't fully appreciated this before. Similarly, Kriessschmidt will play Rafter. It's good to see it all systematically laid out. When you have filled in the table for yourself, with a special Wimbledon ball-point pen, the sense of achievement is disproportionately high.

Rain cleared. Rain fell again. Piffling community singing burst out around No 2 Court after lunch, but luckily Sir Cliff was broadcasting on Radio Wimbledon at the time and it petered out once *Yellow*

Submarine and Doe, a deer had been exhausted. The poverty of the British repertoire is all too apparent in these situations, unfortunately. Of course, the imperatives of journalistic curiosity ought to have driven me towards these piping voices, to gather names and addresses, but, by a strangely perverse process, their damn Blitz spirit drove me instead in quite the opposite direction, towards my second half of lager of the day.

The truth is, there's a time limit to good humour on occasions like this. Once the punters have discovered that all the Wimbledon shops stock the same gear, things can turn a bit nasty. The novelty of the pricey catering can wear off quite quickly, too. If I have perused (and rejected) one egg mayonnaise sandwich in this place (price £1.95), I have perused and rejected identical thousands. There's no argument that the food here is of a superior nature, what with Pimms and all that, but I'm yet to understand why a hot

dog is called a "Dutchee", or why my first modest repast of sandwich and coffee set me back £7.25.

Out at the Cafe Croquet — a small marquee at the southern end of the grounds, where sitting undercover turned out to be a possibility, after all — I found two demoralised ladies from Kilmarnock, one of whom was so nice that she offered me accommodation during the British Open golf at Troon. This was their third day at the tournament and so far they had seen a match and a half, on Monday. On Tuesday, they had queued for three hours before being sent away. Their tickets for No 1 Court promised Seles v McQuillan, Harnisviev v Norman and Harnisviev v Goldard, so no wonder they felt sick that the only excitement in view was another egg mayonnaise sandwich and half of lager to a chorus of the greatest hits from *The Sound of Music*.

Rain is predicted for today as well, of course. They've got Centre Court tickets today.

Novotna haunted by spectre of lost opportunity

By MICHAEL CALVIN

THE setting was new. The spectres were old. Jana Novotna returned to Wimbledon, on a dank, damp evening, and failed once more to dispel the memories of a sunny summer Saturday, when her frailties became clear to the watching world.

She left No 1 Court with almost indecent haste yesterday after taking 34 minutes to work herself into a position of strength, from which she successfully served for the first set of her first-round match against Wilfried Prusac. It was a tacit admission of the pressures that will build, inexorably, when the monsoon season clears.

As much as she may deny the gravity of her plight, the Czech seems, like Paul Gascoigne, to be destined to be remembered for self-pitying tears, shed in shock. Four years have passed since she wept on the shoulder of the Duchess of Kent, after her loss of nerve donated the women's singles title to Steffi Graf, but it is an enduring freeze-frame image of desolation.

Second chances are rare in sport. Doug Sanders never had another three-foot putt for the Open Championship. Gordon Smith subsided into obscurity soon after missing the chance that would have won Brighton the FA Cup.

Novotna is fortunate. The absence of Graf, the suspect temperament of Monica Seles and the relative inexperience of Martina Hingis give her what is probably her last, and most certainly her best, opportunity of winning Wimbledon.

The air was heavy with unfulfilled ambition and scarcely suppressed anxiety even before Novotna emerged tentatively for a match that seemed to represent an ideal introduction. Prusac, at 28 the same age as Novotna, is ranked No 90 in the world and is struggling to sustain a mediocre career. Novotna, ranked No 3, had won the five previous matches between them.

Yet she was ill at ease after a day that applied subtle strain to her psyche. The sheer futility of life as a professional athlete, when the weather intervenes, is an insidious test of temperament. It destroys the bio-rhythms, interrupts the rituals of practice and preparation. Most of all, it gives a player too much time to think about the impending challenge.

Novotna, like most of the elite, was nowhere to be seen

as the afternoon dragged on. She took refuge in the locker-room and attempted to remain self-contained, away from the public gaze. Prusac also declined to risk the diversions of a visit to the players lounge, which had all the allure of Gatwick when air traffic controllers exercise their right to strike.

Some players, folded into wooden-framed chairs arranged around a conspicuously-closed bar, watched an amorphous blob called Morph, a pliable pillar of children's BBC, with the type of rapt attention seldom seen outside a toddler group. Others played cards or pocket chess. The financially inclined completed their accounts, or read paperback pot-boilers charting the career of Nick Leeson, the jailed futures trader.

Novotna, more concerned by the stigma of her past, would have concurred with the thoughts of Alan Jones, who ordered his charge, Samantha Smith, the British



No 1, out of the room because of the psychological pressure inflicted by the waiting process. Wait and wonder too long in such circumstances and the walls begin to close in.

The nervous tension was etched on Novotna's face as she walked out on court, stilling a brief burst of slow handclapping from an obsessively patient crowd. Her stern features are generally deceptive, yet, on this occasion, she was clearly absorbed by her task.

Prusac played on her mind, testing her dexterity and determination in a series of powerfully struck baseline rallies. Novotna was hesitant and did not disguise her alarm when she slipped twice during the fifth game, when she rallied to make her decisive second break of the opening set. Appropriately enough, given the staccato nature of the day, she endured another half-hour delay before winning 6-4 when the rain had eased once again.

Anyone for tennis?



THE TIMES FREE TENNIS
The Times offers every reader the chance to enjoy an hour's FREE tennis session with a partner at one of 70 private courts throughout the country. The offer, which usually costs about £12, is valid until August 14, 1997. Printed below is a selection of participating clubs. A full list will appear on Saturday. Simply collect four of the six differently numbered tokens printed this week and attach them to the voucher, right. Another voucher will appear on Saturday. Then make an advance booking by phone with the tennis centre of your choice quoting *The Times*. Your voucher and tokens must be presented at the time of your visit. The offer is subject to availability and some sessions may last just under one hour.

SOUTH WEST
ALVERSTOCK, Laver TC, 01705 583726
BASINGSTOKE, Manydown TC, 01256 780212
BODMIN, Dragon TC, 01208 75715
BOURNEMOUTH, TC, 01202 298570
West Hants Lawn TC, 01202 519455
LYMINGTON, TC, 01580 678236
SOUTHAMPTON, Match Point, 01703 731713
SWINDON, Delta TC, 01793 445555
TAUNTON Pavilion TC, 01823 333435
WESTON-SUPER-MARE, Weston TC, 01934 513447
POOLE, The Dorset Racquet & Health Club, 01202 642600

GREATER LONDON
BARNES, Rocks Lane TC, 0181-876 8330
CHINGFORD, The Connaught Club, 0181-529 2341
CHISWICK W4, The Hogarth Club, 0181-995 4600
EALING, London School of Tennis, 0181-991 8755
ISLINGTON W7, TC, 0171-700 1370
LADBROKE GROVE W10, Westway Sports Centre, 0181-969 0992
SPITALFIELDS E1, Market Sports, 0171-377 1300
WESTBOURNE GREEN W2, Carlton Indoor TC, 0171-286 1985

THE TIMES FREE TENNIS
To qualify for your free tennis session, valid for up to one hour, present this voucher, with four tokens from *The Times* attached.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
1 Your free visit must be booked in advance by telephone directly with one of the participating clubs quoting *The Times* offer.
2 Each voucher is only valid for two people making one free visit.
3 The offer is valid until Thursday August 14, 1997, and is subject to availability.
4 The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and entitles you to one visit to the club only.
5 It is advisable to check at the time of booking exactly what is included in the offer as some sessions may last just under an hour.

THE TIMES FREE TENNIS TOKEN 4

Seles gets straight to the point

Simon Barnes on how fate seems to be smiling more kindly on a true survivor

A brief hole in the weather and Monica Seles burst through it like a linehacker homing in on a dilatory quarterback. All shoulders, teeth and psychopathic intentions. The first ball of the day hit in anger — the expression always seems appropriate with Seles — came at 6.04pm: 18 minutes later, she had polished off the first set to love.

Her opponent, Rachel McQuillan, had a thorn look on her face — thorn being the word in *Waterbury Down* for a rabbit caught in a car's headlights. McQuillan did, however, give her opponent the considerable inconvenience of saving a match point, after which the skies went once again at this missed opportunity and play was suspended with the score at 0-0, 5-2 and deuce. The rain relented. Seles did not. She came back on court and completed the match in another couple of minutes, finishing the set 6-2.

Like the life of man in his natural state, the proceedings on Centre Court yesterday were nasty, brutish and short. Years ago, Seles reinvented the game of tennis on a principle of applied brutality. Wonderfully ugly, wonderfully effective and, I must say, it was rather wonderful to be exposed in such a thing again for Seles was the victim of a

man who committed the ultimate lunacy of taking sport seriously. Stabbed in the back by the madman, Günther Parche, she was penetrated lightly in the flesh and deeply in the soul.

She stepped on court yesterday, a figure somewhat diminished from her glory days in everything save size. She is now clearly built for comfort rather than speed — she has more or less forgone the concept of waist.

There was never, even in her patrician days, the least suggestion of queenliness in her bearing. She was rather a campaigning, pillaging conqueror, an Attila, a Genghis Khan, a Tamburlaine — monarch of all she destroyed.

She brought a genuinely alarming intensity to her game of all-out power. Still cameras caught again and again that characteristic expression of the killer bunny from Mars, all blazing eyes and bared herbivorous teeth.

There was something crazy about her, something intimidating about her even to spectators. Lord knows what it must have felt like to face the Martian in her pomp. It was a tearful sound, the ringing

axeman sound from her racket and, of course, the famous karate *ki-ai*, her trademark bisyllabic grunt.

The grunt made headlines and those with long memories will remember the gruntometer, a decimal counter that, its users claimed, showed that her grunt was as loud as a jumbo jet on take-off. And this girl, for girl she was then, with the ultimately brutal tennis game, went all sensitive about it and lost a Wimbledon final that she should have won by trying not to grunt.

Her chance would quickly come again, we thought, but it did not, for, traumatised by the stabbing, she vanished from the game. This year, it seems, her chance has at last arrived.

Her old nemesis, Steffi Graf, love-object of the deluded Parche, is not playing at Wimbledon, for she has a poorly knee. The No 1 seed, Martina Hingis, is only 16, unused to grass and made a poor showing in her opening match on Tuesday. The tide is there for the taking.

You feel that life owes Seles a Wimbledon title. She has the power. The whacking double-

fister on both wings was hit yesterday with laser-beam directness. The wrists still break decisively and late, which gives her extraordinary qualities of disguise. She has the force, but the knife did not affect her strength, it affected her will. The swagger, the simple-hearted relish in destruction, have gone.

It was the cruellest thing to happen. Few people in sport have managed so completely to give the impression of the happy idiot. No one spoke greater gibberish at greater speed, a breathless monologue about socks and suntan and forehands and jewellery and Madonna and jeans and sneakers and backhands.

And being a star — I have never seen anyone who loved being a star so much. She always reminded me of Janis Joplin's terrifying statement: "I love being a star more than life itself." Joplin, of course, is, or was, one of rock's eternal victims.

Yet Seles's heroine is Madonna and Madonna is, if nothing else, a survivor. Seles has at least set about following that as an example. A Wimbledon victory would be some kind of blow against the forces of madness. How much does Seles truly want it? Not more than life itself, that is for sure. Enough? We shall, if ever it stops raining, find out.

RESULTS FROM WIMBLEDON

Men's singles
Winner: \$415,000
Runner-up: £207,500
Holder: R Krajicek (Hol)
First round

Tuesday's late results
B Black (Cym) bt P Cech (Slo) 3-6, 6-4, 6-4
A O'Brien (US) bt H Halm (Swe) 7-6, 6-4, 7-6
N Pietrangeli (ITA) bt H J Duncanson (Holl) 7-5, 7-6, 6-3
M Rios (Arg) bt M Kucera (Slovakia) 6-1, 6-2, 6-3
P Vercoutre (Cec) bt M Flopper (Ung) 4-6, 7-6, 6-1, 6-4
J Hume (Sct) bt C Reed (New) 6-2, 6-1, 6-2
M R J Poppo (USA) bt M J Korda (Slovakia) 6-1, 6-2, 6-1
C van Gerssen (Bel) bt R W Shalby (GB) 6-1, 7-6, 6-1, 6-3
T A Woodbridge (Aus) bt J J Chappaz (Svi) 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, 6-6
M Loe (GB) bt M Marquet (Por) 7-5, 6-3, 6-3

Women's singles
Winner: £373,500
Runner-up: £186,750
Holder: S Graf (Ger)
First round

M Seles bt R McQuillan (Aus) 6-0, 6-2
T Novotna bt S Graf (Ger) 6-1, 6-2
S Hingis bt M McNeil (US) 6-1, 6-2
R 7-5

Recall for Wilkinson

CHRIS WILKINSON has been recalled to the Great Britain Davis Cup squad, two years after saying that he no longer wanted to play for his country if Greg Rusedski was also involved.

Wilkinson, who beat Jonas Bjorkman, the No 17 seed, on Tuesday to reach the second round at Wimbledon for the sixth consecutive year, will travel with the Britain team to Kiev for their clay-court clash with Ukraine that takes place just five days after the Wimbledon men's singles final.

Martin Lee, who also had a first-round success on Tuesday, when he beat Nuno

Marques, of Portugal, is included in the six-man party, although neither he nor Wilkinson is likely to play in Kiev unless Tim Henman or Rusedski is injured.

Henman and Rusedski, who were both absent with injury when Britain lost 4-1 to Zimbabwe at Crystal Palace in April, return as the established top pair and they could even form the doubles combination for a match that Britain must win to avoid taking part in a Euro-Africa zone group one relegation match against Hungary in September.

Davis Cup team: Rusedski, A Richardson, G Barclay, C Wilkinson, M Lee

Bath face tough test in Europe

BATH have the hardest task of the English club representatives in the Heineken Cup next season. If they are to progress as far as they did last year — only to the quarter-final stage — they must battle past both Brive, the holders, and Pontypriid, the Welsh league champions.

The European competition has been expanded to include five pools and the prize money has been almost trebled, to £400,000. However, there are still two places to be filled. Cardiff and Llanelli should be taking up the two other Welsh club vacancies, but their ongoing dispute with the Welsh Rugby Union may mean that they are thrown out.

POOL MATCHES: Sept 6-7: Pool A: Leicester v London, Saracens v Bath, Gloucester v Worcester, Exeter v Bath, Bath v Gloucester. Sept 13-14: Pool B: Bath v Worcester, Bath v Gloucester, Bath v Leicester, Bath v Exeter. Sept 20-21: Pool C: Bath v Worcester, Bath v Gloucester, Bath v Leicester, Bath v Exeter. Sept 27-28: Pool D: Bath v Worcester, Bath v Gloucester, Bath v Leicester, Bath v Exeter. Sept 27-28: Pool E: Bath v Worcester, Bath v Gloucester, Bath v Leicester, Bath v Exeter.

RUGBY UNION: SYMBOLIC LION LIKELY TO EARN JUST REWARD WITH PLACE ON WING

Bentley setting new standards

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN DURBAN

ONE of the easiest things that a sportsman can do is to assert, sometimes aggressively, that he is not just there to make up the numbers. In the case of the British Isles team in South Africa, where the numbers are even more plentiful than normal, it has become something of a credo. No member of the party accepts that he is consigned to the midweek XV — and of nobody has this proved more true than John Bentley.

Bentley has been one of the outstanding successes of this tour, proof positive that Fran Cotton was right to pluck him from the Newcastle wing and restore him to the representative limelight. It is not only Bentley's playing form, but also his entire demeanour that symbolises the nature of these Lions.

The mature, matter-of-fact stance that Bentley, a former policeman from Cleckheaton, has taken in public on issues fundamental to professional sportsmen has been totally admirable. If some of the younger Lions, particularly the English ones, learn from him, they will be better competitors, both mentally and physically, as Bentley, 30, demonstrated on Tuesday night, when he scored three tries in the exhilarating 52-30 demolition of Free State in Bloemfontein.

Earlier this month, Bentley was replaced during the game with Northern Transvaal — the only defeat that the Lions have suffered so far — and he felt the slight deeply. That was, after all, a Saturday fixture and, seven days earlier, he had scored two tries in the

win over Western Province. In the process, he underwent a much-publicised spat with James Small, the South Africa wing, who accused Bentley of poking a finger in his eye in a tackle and then refused to exchange handshakes at the game's end.

In South Africa's perception, Bentley had "out-psyched" the excitable Small and made himself a leading contender for international selection, but instead it was Alan Tait, another former rugby league player, who played in the contentious left-wing position during the international last Saturday in Cape Town.

Now, however, Bentley's chance may have come, though not in the way that he would have wished. The Lions selectors will name today their XV to play South Africa in the second international here on Saturday and the groin injury suffered by Iwan Evans will create a vacancy on the right wing. Bentley's favoured side. Had he been fit, Evans would certainly have played, but he is unlikely to take any further part on this tour.

Bentley would have wished to win his place on merit, but he also knows — none better, after nine gruelling years in rugby league — that injuries offer good players opportunities.

The Lions management will not confirm Evans's situation until today, but when that happens, the way will be open for Bentley to make not only the international appearance that he craves but also to confirm the possibility that next month, nine years after winning his only two England



Bentley put his case for selection with a powerful all-round display against Free State

caps, he could add a third, against Australia in Sydney. Bentley's willingness to take on opponents — to cut back inside because he knows that he does not have blistering

finishing speed — may be regarded as a strength, now that his colleagues have learnt new patterns of play and the strengths and weaknesses of their colleagues.

Bentley has benefited from the outstanding support play of the multi-national back row of Rob Wainwright, Neil Back and Eric Miller, ball-players to a man, yet who may go home without playing against South Africa. "The way the players played at Bloemfontein, you have to adjust and review performance levels, but we would be stupid not to regard Saturday's first-test display as a template," Ian McGeechan, the coach, said.

"You always hope on a Lions tour that the squad plays better than they have ever done, that they will go back home better players and then you cannot argue against

the Lions concept. We are in that pleasant position."

Such have been the standards achieved, however, and such the camaraderie that few of the party will consider their tour to have been a failure should they not appear in the internationals.

Injuries excepted, Miller rated serious discussion for the No 8 berth held by Tim Rodder when the selectors chose their XV last night. His swift hands, as well as his explosive speed, are set against Rodder's greater experience and strength in the tackle, but pace over the ground has been the key to the success of the 1997 Lions. Last week, in Cape Town, they played a more structured game, but, as McGeechan said, they seek to evolve week by week and the plan for Durban should differ. So, too, could the personnel.

Game in crisis reaches point of no return

Christopher Irvine counts the cost of British teams playing out of their league

THE world club championship, a wonderful idea in principle, has wreaked so much havoc in such a short time that it is difficult to see where the repair work begins and ends for rugby league in Britain.

With more punishment inevitably to be meted out by the Australasian Super League (ASL) sides, the harm and embarrassment could deepen before the competition ends in October. After three sobering weeks, the game has stark alternatives — to hurry its head back in the sand, or take the "no pain, no gain" route of meaningful change, in which case the world championship will have served a useful purpose.

The need for the Super League to be cut from 12 to ten, or even eight, clubs is self-evident. So, too, is cutting the dead wood from the overseas quota, in a reduction from six to two players, to reverse the neglect of home-produced talent. There needs to be a pyramid structure of development and an end to the pernicious promotion-relegation and transfer fee systems — root causes of clubs spending their way to oblivion.

Long-term success hinges on junior development, a scandalous failing in the festering dispute between the professional and amateur governing bodies. This cannot continue — a proposed joint youth commission is a step forward — unless the sport is so complacent that it can shrug off the beatings by southern-hemisphere sides, retreat back to its own little world and pretend the whole thing never happened.

Retrenchment should not be a dirty word. London is a moderate success of the expansionist agenda and a foothold in the capital is important for the sport's profile, but building from a position of strength, in the game's heartlands, is where

recovery can start. It cannot in Bristol, Leicester and Cardiff, where infrastructure is minimal.

Twenty-seven losses and three wins in the first series of matches — two of the victories at the expense of an ordinary Perth side — is damning enough evidence of the need for change. A few one-off wins were expected, particularly from Bradford Bulls and St Helens, who lost each of their three home matches. Seven of the ten Australasian sides posted club record scores, while Halifax Blue Sox suffered their heaviest loss — 76-0 at Brisbane — and Wigan Warriors came within two points at Canberra of their worst defeat.

If the post mortem does not make unpleasant enough reading, the crowd figures indicated a lack of public stomach, both here and in Australia, for a plethora of predictable outcomes. The reverse fixtures four weeks from now will require an extraordinarily hard sell and, above all, evidence that the European contingent stands a better chance.

John Ribot, one of the architects of rugby league's faded global vision, resigned yesterday as the Australasian Super League chief executive and hopes to head a new club franchise in Melbourne. This week will also see whether Maurice Lindsay, his British counterpart, jumps horses to become chairman of the Tote, leaving behind an onerous job of reform.

Ribot resigned as a charter for harmony between Rupert Murdoch's Super League and the Australian Rugby League (ARL) was announced yesterday. The ARL has resolved to work towards a single national competition by 1998.

Eventual reunification, after a season of division, would unleash again the full might of Australian talent under one umbrella — yet more bad news for European clubs.

'27 losses is evidence of the need for change'

COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS			
The four top scorers in the individual Standard competitions played over the company golf days listed below now comprise the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.			
Date	Company name	Venue	Score
29 APR	WEDLAKE BELL	SUNNINGDALE	128
30 APR	PEUGEOT FINANCE	MOOR ALLERTON	117
1 MAY	CITROEN FINANCE	MOOR ALLERTON	122
6 MAY	PEUGEOT FINANCE	MOTTRAM HALL	109
7 MAY	PEUGEOT FINANCE	TELFORD	118
8 MAY	PEUGEOT FINANCE	FALKIRK TRYST	147
9 MAY	CITROEN FINANCE	FALKIRK TRYST	133
21 MAY	NWB-HELLER LIMITED	HAWKSTONE PARK	133
22 MAY	ALEX STEWART PARTNERSHIP	ROYAL BELFAST	128
23 MAY	SEA CONTAINERS SERVICES LTD	BROKE HILL	111
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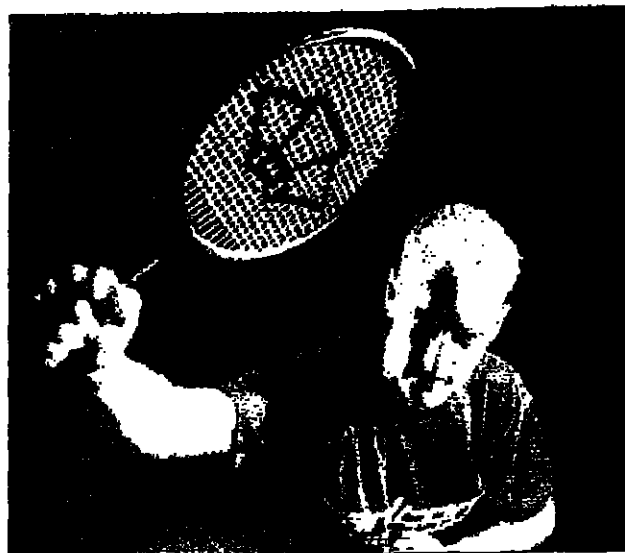
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Time to rally round in defiance of science and disarm 'Scuds'



Power play rushing tennis to break point

The thump of scorching aces at Wimbledon is one of the traditional sounds of summer. So, increasingly, is the chorus of complaints that the high-speed servers are ripping tennis apart.

We have seen the graphite-armed, one-shot monsters reducing the game to a service shoot-out this week as Greg Rusedski and Mark Philippoussis, the two fastest servers in the business, thrashed aces down in a ground-shuddering display of power tennis.

Although the crowd went wild about Rusedski — and after all, in spite of his accent, he is British — there are many who know the sad truth: unless the game takes a serious look at slowing down a bit, it will surely smash its way into ever-increasing boredom.

Players today are noticeably stronger, bigger and more athletic than the champions of the past. They are sun-scorched giants with strange-sounding, central European names, who can smack out aces all day long. When you combine these specimens with rackets that make the wooden ones look prehistoric, you have a game that the languid Victorians, who devised tennis, would never recognise.

To many, tennis began to die with the disappearance of the wooden racket. The metal rackets that crept into the game in the 1960s have evolved into powerful graphite weapons, complete with shock and vibration-reducing handles and self-adjusting levels of stiffness.

Anyone who believes that the world-record 142.3mph service, which has earned Philippoussis the nickname



"Scud", is the ultimate, should think again. In the past fortnight, as the Wimbledon players have warmed up, there has come a dire warning (and an implied challenge) from another racket sport about the ever advancing march of speed and technology.

Tennis, despite its Scuds, is not even the fastest racket sport around. That honour goes to badminton. The announcement came, not unexpectedly, from the equipment manufacturers, who, with an eye firmly on the commercial potential, boast happily of injecting more power and speed into their game.

Simon Archer, the British Olympic squad badminton player, smashed a shuttlecock at a recorded 162mph in a specially arranged game with Julian Robertson. Archer, the equipment manufacturer proudly reported, "plays with a Carlton Aerogear 900FX and used Aerogear 980 leather shuttles". Archer said: "I was confident I could break the tennis record, but I surprised myself by achieving speeds of over 160mph." Presumably, we can expect tennis to get out its radar guns and Dunlop to wind up its engineers to produce something that will match the speed of badminton.

Of course, you cannot stop the march of technology and



Speed merchants: Philippoussis delivers another scorching serve, but even he is left trailing by Archer, the badminton player, top left, who has hit a shuttlecock at 162mph

those who hanker after a vanished golden age of wooden rackets and endless rallies should remember that the Victorians were only able to develop lawn tennis as a garden game because of breakthroughs in technology. The first of these was the discovery in 1839 by Charles Goodyear of how to vulcanise rubber, which gave the game a ball that would bounce on grass. The second was the invention of the lawnmower. Without it, surfaces would have been unplayable.

While the surfaces and the balls have changed little, however, Wimbledon's historic collection of rackets in its museum is the evidence of how much the game has changed. Nostalgia for the days of the wooden racket is so strong that in the United States they even hold special tournaments where modern rackets are banned.

The Annual Woody Tournament of Cape Cod was started three summers ago and insists on all-white outfits and all-wood rackets. Others, who real-

ise that living in the past is not a realistic option, have suggested slowing down tennis by making the courts bigger, restricting players to one service, or even making double faults cost two points. Such solutions sound unlikely, but more serious consideration should be given to the specifications of rackets and balls.

Restrictions have had to be imposed in other sports. Baseball banned the use of aluminium bats and in 1984, when Uwe Hohn, of East Germany, threatened the lives of spectators by hurling the javelin 104.80 metres, athletics officials gulped and changed the specification of the javelin to make it fall shorter.

Back in 1956, an imaginative Spaniard, Erasquin, emerged from obscurity at the age of 49 with a new way of throwing the javelin — discuss style. He smashed the Spanish record and his technique was widely, if briefly, imitated before it was outlawed.

In tennis, it would be quite possible to place a limit on the length, width, circumference and stiffness of the rackets used for Wimbledon and other

grass-court championships. It might put some badly-needed creativity and skill back into the game.

Similarly, there is a lot of variety in the balls used in tennis. Some are heavier than others, some have more felt and move more slowly. Wimbledon could try using a ball that is slightly heavier than usual or experiment with a little less air pressure.

The truth about tennis is that, in the future, the twin advances in physical strength and technology will have to be controlled if they are not to destroy the game. The court, the net and the rules are still exactly as the Victorian founders determined that they should be, but the combination of modern rackets and the physique of players has torn the game from its gracious Victorian frame.

Each June, we have the terrifying prospect of even faster serves and fewer rallies. Somewhere above the unrelenting thud of the Scud must be heard the cries of those who weep for the game.

JOHN BRYANT

SAILING

Chill factor slows Edwards

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

TRACEY EDWARDS and her all-women crew on board the 92ft catamaran, *Royal & Sun Alliance*, have been forced to mount 24-hour iceberg watches on the bow as the huge cat races eastwards at an average speed of 17.5 knots in an attempt to break the multi-hull transatlantic record.

After three days of sailing, Edwards has covered 1,264 miles, with only medium-strength wind assistance, since setting off from New York on Sunday. This has left her slightly under the pace set by the record-holder for the trip, Serge Mader, of France, who completed the crossing in Jet Services V in just over six

days and 13 hours. Yesterday, Edwards disclosed that she had to slow the boat slightly on Tuesday evening because of icebergs and smaller growlers — lumps of ice — about 230 miles east south-east of St John's, Newfoundland.

She said that after each of the crew had completed a watch, the member then spent one hour on the bow looking for lumps of ice, some of which were too small to show up on radar.

"The safety of my boat and crew comes above all else and, as everyone knows, to beat a record, first you have to finish," Edwards said.

During the night, the women were on the bow in pairs, using night-vision glasses as the catamaran reached speeds of up to 27 knots. "The bow is not a pleasant place to be in freezing conditions with waves coming over you at regular intervals. Everyone is drugged to the skin," Edwards said.

According to Ed Danby, the project manager, the boat is standing up well to the rigours of the record attempt, apart from a leak in the centre-board casing in the galley that one of the crew, Lisa Charles, from Rhode Island, has managed to stem with a running repair.

He said lighter airs yesterday should be replaced by stronger conditions today, which will help to speed Edwards on towards the finish line off the Lizard Point on the southern coast of Cornwall.

In order to break the record, *Royal & Sun Alliance* needs to cross the line before 12.30am on Sunday.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

ABRIN

(b) A highly poisonous protein contained in the jequirity bean (*Abrus precatorius*). "Messrs Warden and Waddell published in Calcutta during the present year a large number of observations on the jequirity poison. They have proved that the active principle is a protein — abrin — closely allied to native albumen."

FLOBERT

(c) A cartridge and a breech-loading rifle. Eponyms of N. Flobert, the French armorer (1819-94). "The Flobert cartridge is notable as being an evolution of the percussion cap."

CONVENTRATE

(b) To bomb intensively. To devastate sections of (a city) by concentrated bombing, such as that inflicted on Coventry in November 1940. The first of the German "Baedeker" raids of mass destruction on touristic but not strategic cities. From the German *conventieren*. "German bombers made prolonged mass attacks on Coventry. And they invented the verb 'to conventrate' to describe the indiscriminate mass murder of civilians."

CHIPPWEA

(b) A member of an Algonquian Indian people found in the Great Lakes region. A by-form of *Chippewa*. "The gurgling ejaculations of the Chippewas who came to her door."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Bg5; 2. Qg5; 3. Nf5 and mate or substantial material gain follows.

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JAMES CROSSWORD: 1. Bg5; 2. Qg5; 3. Nf5 and mate or substantial material gain follows. 2. Bg5; 3. Nf5 and mate or substantial material gain follows. 3. Nf5 and mate or substantial material gain follows.

NEWSPAPER CROSSWORD: 1. Bg5; 2. Qg5; 3. Nf5 and mate or substantial material gain follows. 2. Bg5; 3. Nf5 and mate or substantial material gain follows. 3. Nf5 and mate or substantial material gain follows.

Watchdog: Value For Money

BBC1, 7pm

The BBC clearly perceives it has a winner with the *Watchdog* formula, for as one spin-off, *Weekend Watchdog*, leaves the schedules, another one returns. *Weekend Watchdog* but its knuckles rapped recently over coverage of allegedly dodgy holidays but no complaints have attached to *Watchdog*'s shopping programme, presented as before by Vanessa Feltz and Chris Choi. Tonight's programme is nothing if not packed. Katrina, the Eurovision Song Contest victor, asks whether market stall clothes can compete with the designer label look. Garth Crooks and Scorpio from *Gladiators* look at sports footwear and Anne McKeivitt of *Home Front* considers how far improvements add value to a house. Choi's item, which seems to have strayed in from another show, is about making money out of comedy.

Health Alert

Channel 4, 8pm

We have heard it enough times, that heart disease is the main killer of men in Britain. We know that it tends to be brought on by bad habits such as smoking and lack of exercise. But Shahrukh Pukran's report, rounding off an informative series, suggests that the propaganda is not hitting home. Peter, who is 46, has been admitted to hospital with a heart attack. Perhaps it is no wonder because he weighs 18 stone, smokes and takes no regular exercise. With a young family he is determined to mend his ways. The film follows him through a rehabilitation programme and his attempts to forgo cigarettes and fry-ups. Women are even less fit than men. One survey found that only two in ten do enough exercise. We meet a research scientist who says he can get them to change their ways.

Fishers of Galilee

Channel 4, 8.30pm

The Sea of Galilee provides rich material for the wildlife film-maker and Malcolm Penny's splendidly photographed documentary does not disappoint. Much of the time Penny is content to remind us of the unchanging rituals, from fishing methods that have not changed since time immemorial to the seasonal interaction of birdlife and the



Vanessa Feltz at large (BBC1, 7pm)

fish that provide much of their food. But just as you marvel at footage of birds mating and chicks hatching, Penny brings his theme right into the late 20th century. To sustain the wildlife, human fishing of the lake is strictly controlled but increasing numbers of holidaymakers are disturbing the birds. Pollution is a hazard and so is a drop in the water level caused by summer evaporation and low rainfall. Moreover, the lake provides Israel with nearly half of its drinking water as well as irrigating large areas of desert.

We Are Not Alone: Alien Hunters

ITV, 10.40pm (Scotland and Ireland 11pm)

Yet another documentary about UFOs and close encounters with the alien kind, but this time we hear less about sightings of strange things in the sky and more about scientific efforts to establish that there is life beyond our planet. Not that the evidence is any more conclusive. But at least science is coming up with the right tools. The Hubble space telescope may one day bring certainty where much has been speculation and when the chief scientist on the Hubble project says that finding life out there is inevitable, we must take notice. But the film still relies on material of the non-scientific kind, such as photographs of a supposed humanoid alien taken by a couple in Arizona. And the last words belong not to scientists but to the science fiction film *Things to Come*. — Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Female Ghost

Radio 4, 10am (FM only)

I am not entirely clear why a new series of ghost stories should have to be angled towards women, but I had better be careful what I say or my words could come back to haunt me. My own recollection of ghost stories is that they all seem to focus on women in one way or another, either using a female ghost or having a wide-eyed 'helpless female' archetype at the centre of the story. But *The Female Ghost* promises something more sophisticated, not least because all four stories in the series are by women writers. The first is Mary Bradton's *The Cold Embrace*, which deals with the consequences of infidelity. All four stories in the series have been dramatised by Christopher Hawes and the director is Marion Nancarrow.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo White 2.00pm Noddy Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Glasnost 9.15 8.30 Movie Update 8.40 Glasnost 10.30 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Carl C. 4.00am Dave Pearce

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jenny Young 1.00pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Chris Serle 7.00 David Allen's Country Club 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 Drivetime 10.00 The Cuckoo's Nest 10.30 The What If Show 10.30 Shelley (8/6) 10.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00 Charles Nowe

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Max 1.30pm Wimbledon 9.7 Coverage of day four 8.00 David Gower's Cricket Weekly 9.00 Morning Coffee, with Peter Hobbard, includes Ariana (Overture: The Happy Slaves); Sibelius (Incidental music, Kuller); Ernst (Variations on the Last Rose of Summer); Prokofiev (Suite, Op. 144)

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Rastburn 9.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Bruch (Spring), Scarlatti (Sonata in D); Haydn (Symphony No 50 in C); Weber (Overture: Abu Hassan); Nielsen (Symphony No 4, Inexplicable); Schubert (Impromptu in F minor, D935, No 1); 6.15 Imogen Cooper, piano; Brahms (String Quartet No 2 in A minor, Op 51 No 2) 7.30 London Symphony Orchestra, under Colin Davis. Rach. Lullaby, piano; Healey Willson, soprano; Karl Magnus Fredriksson, baritone; London Symphony Chorus. Mozart (Piano Concerto No 24 in C minor, K491) 8.05 Layton on Kullervo (Rach. Suite); Stephen Montague (Sibelius); Gade (Eltorvskud, part 3), Western (Pascaglia, Op 1), Bach, orch. Weiblen (Ricercar a 6, Musical Offering, BWV1079); Bach (Mozart: Serenade in D minor, BWV 1079); Bach (Mozart: Trauungskron; Lubeck; Sommerstage) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Paris 1750 1.00pm Verdi: *Perikles* (Petrovich, director of the National Institute of Opera Studies, plays a selection from the institute's collection of Verdi on disc and talks to Peter Burton-Page about the performances) 2.00 To Johannes Brahms. Featuring music by Brahms and works dedicated to him by his friends and admirers: Gould Trio Lucy Gould, violin; Martin Storey, cello; Gretel Davidson, piano Robert Jacobs, (Piano Trio in C, Op 22), Brahms (Piano Trio in B, Op 8) 3.15 Ulster Orchestra, under Andrew McGreeva. (Legend in G minor, Op 58 No 3), Bag. Edward Napier, Flute (Symphony No 1 in F) 4.15 Ensemble, with Penny Gore. Wm. McLean, piano Includes Beethoven (Piano Sonata in C minor, Op

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newswatch 6.30 Europe 7.15 World Today 7.30 Mervyn Dunsany 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Composer of the Month 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.15 Turning a Tune 9.30 Nat. New Country 10.05 Business 10.15 Day Today 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 11.50 Discovery 12.00pm Born a Girl 12.45 F.O.C.C. 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain 1.30 Record News 1.45 Sport 2.00pm Newswatch 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Wimbledon 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 Turning a Tune 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe 5.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.00 Assignment 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 John Peel 9.00 Newswatch 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain 10.30 Mervyn Dunsany 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Vintage Chart Show 1.30 Turning a Tune 1.45 Britain 2.30 The World 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Alan Mann 9.00 Harry Kelly 1.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Cullum 7.00 Newswatch 7.30 Sonja Hayfron-Jones 8.00 Sonja Hayfron-Jones 8.30 Evening Concert. Includes: Rossini (The Barber of Seville), Overture; Brian Easdale (The Road Shows Ballet); Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A minor); Mussorgsky (A Night on the Bare Mountain) 10.00 Michael Mappin 2.00am Concerto (V)

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Joni's Breakfast in Hong Kong 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horse 6.00 Paul Cople (P) 7.00 James Bland 10.00 Mark Forest 2.00am Richard Porter

RADIO 4

13. Pathétique; Chopin (Polonaise-Fantasy in A, Op. 61); Ravel (Scherzo) 5.00 The Music Machine, with Vicky Sharp 5.15 In Tune, with Humphrey Carpenter. Live from the Jubilee Hall, Aidsbury. The Brindley Quartet. Schubert (Impromptu in F minor, D935, No 1) 6.15 Imogen Cooper, piano; Brahms (String Quartet No 2 in A minor, Op 51 No 2) 7.30 London Symphony Orchestra, under Colin Davis. Rach. Lullaby, piano; Healey Willson, soprano; Karl Magnus Fredriksson, baritone; London Symphony Chorus. Mozart (Piano Concerto No 24 in C minor, K491) 8.05 Layton on Kullervo (Rach. Suite); Stephen Montague (Sibelius); Gade (Eltorvskud, part 3), Western (Pascaglia, Op 1), Bach, orch. Weiblen (Ricercar a 6, Musical Offering, BWV1079); Bach (Mozart: Serenade in D minor, BWV 1079); Bach (Mozart: Trauungskron; Lubeck; Sommerstage) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Paris 1750 1.00pm Verdi: *Perikles* (Petrovich, director of the National Institute of Opera Studies, plays a selection from the institute's collection of Verdi on disc and talks to Peter Burton-Page about the performances) 2.00 To Johannes Brahms. Featuring music by Brahms and works dedicated to him by his friends and admirers: Gould Trio Lucy Gould, violin; Martin Storey, cello; Gretel Davidson, piano Robert Jacobs, (Piano Trio in C, Op 22), Brahms (Piano Trio in B, Op 8) 3.15 Ulster Orchestra, under Andrew McGreeva. (Legend in G minor, Op 58 No 3), Bag. Edward Napier, Flute (Symphony No 1 in F) 4.15 Ensemble, with Penny Gore. Wm. McLean, piano Includes Beethoven (Piano Sonata in C minor, Op

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